Alice
IN THE COUNTRY OF
Hearts
THE CLOCKMAKER'S STORY
STO QuinRose
ART Mamenosuke Fujima

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STAY? BECAUSE YOU FELT SORRY FOR ME?

In the Country of Hearts Alice has started developing feelings for the angsty Clockmaker. She can see past Julius's doom and gloom to the gentle soul inside. When the path back home starts opening at last, Alice wonders if she'll be able to leave Julius when the time comes. Will she give up her world for a man who can barely voice his feelings?

Love is timeless, but even in Wonderland the clock is always ticking.

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SINCE I HAVEN'T MADE DESSERTS IN FOREVER...
NICE!
THESE CAME OUT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!
MM.
BUT I THINK I MADE TOO MANY.
I FIGURED I SHOULD DO IT FOR SOMETHING I CARE ABOUT
THAT'S IT?
I THOUGHT I DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB THIS TIME.
AT LEAST SUZAKI'S GOOD FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE TIRED.
HOW ARE THEY?
NOT BAD.

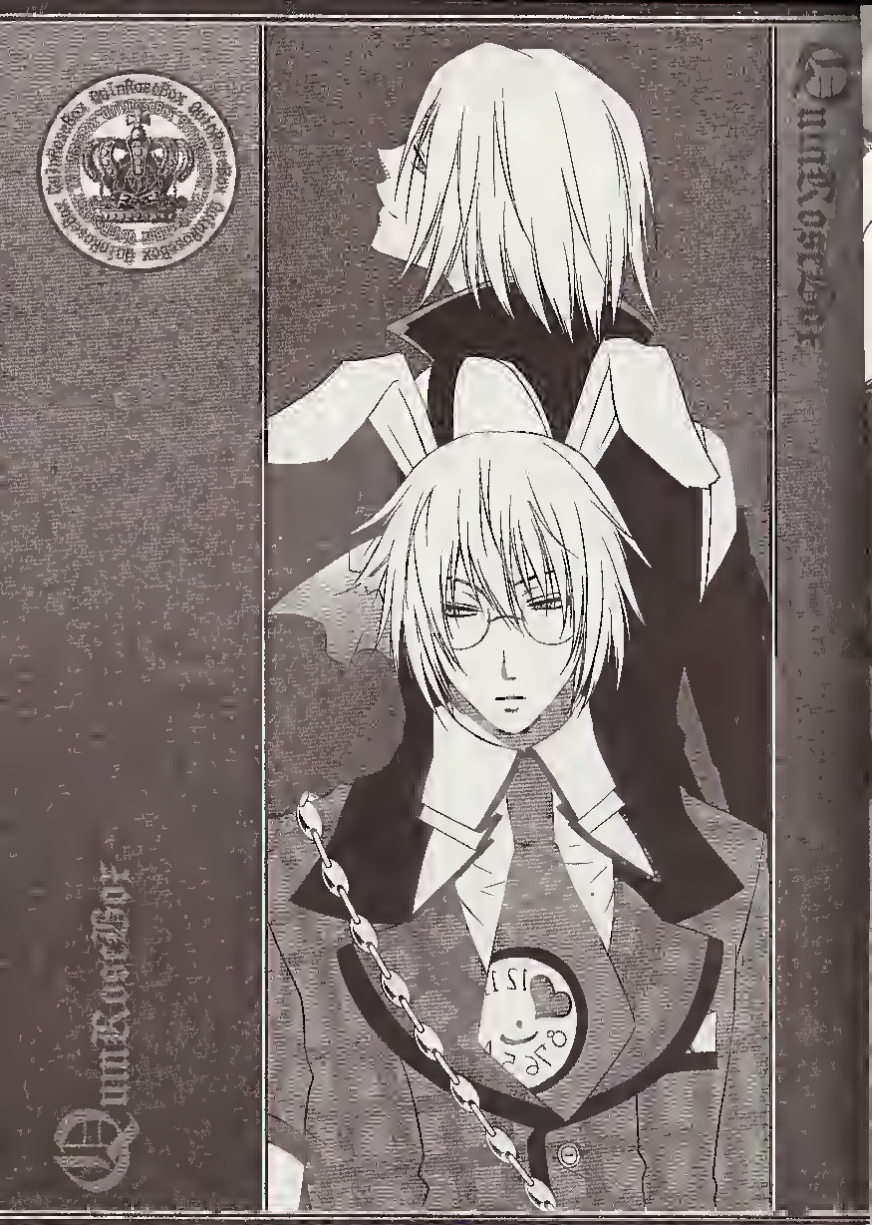
IT'S WHY I LIKE YOU, JULIUS.
Suspiciously reworded.
IT'S WHY I CAN'T NOT LIKE YOU.
YOU DON'T TAKE A BREAK!
HA HA
I DON'T MIND IT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
THE CHANGE OF PACE IS A BREAK FOR MY MIND.
BUT IF I'M IN THE WAY YOU CAN JUST TELL ME.
AM I BLUSHING YOU?
ANYWAY, I'M HEADING OUT!
MM.

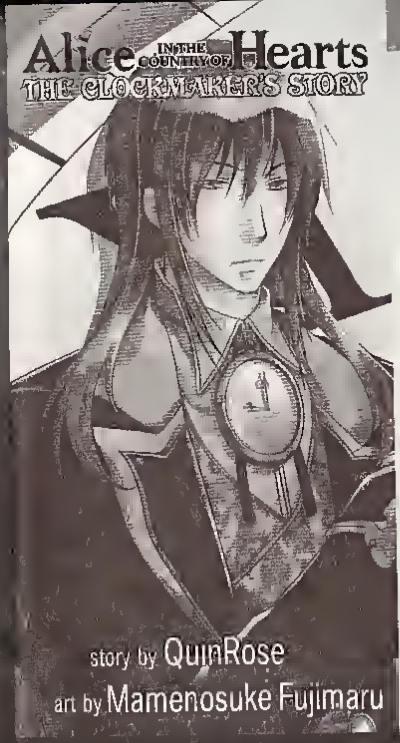
SO I GAVE HIM SOME. HE GOT YOUR EXTRAS.
I MADE TOO MANY...
AND ON MY WAY HERE, I BUMPED INTO BORIS.
I DID NOT!
THEN YOU BROUGHT ME YOUR EXTRAS.
BORIS SAID THEY WERE DELICIOUS.
SO TAKE MY GIFT AND THANK ME. I'LL WAIT YOU?
YOU DON'T SLEEP ENOUGH— NO MATTER HOW MUCH I NAG YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU COULD USE A LITTLE SUGAR! MICK.
YOU THROW EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT INTO YOUR WORK. I'M COOL.
I WON'T ARGUE WITH THAT, BUT...
WHY ARE YOU SO CONCERNED WITH MY WELL-BEING? I'M A GROWING MAN.
SIGH. I AM IT

Alice in the Country of Hearts
~The Clockmaker's Story~

Mamenosuke Fujimaru
藤丸 豆ノ介

I SEE... I'VE HEARD IT WAS ACCIDENT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.
"THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU, JULIUS."
TRAVELING FROM THE INSTANT HEART CASTLE JUST TO VISIT THE CLOCK TOWER.
AND DOING THE LIFT OF SWEETS...
HOWEVER ABOUT USING THE WORD "LIKE"...
AND IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BOTHER HIM EITHER.
BUT HE DIDN'T ARGUE IT OR ASK ME TO CLARIFY...
HNN!
.....
AND SO IS HE.
"LIKE"?
ALICE IS IN DEEP, EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE IT YET





Alice in the Country of Hearts
The Clockmaker's Story

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

Alice in Country of Hearts
Character Information

Elliot March
VA - Yuji Ishihara / Kenji Nojima

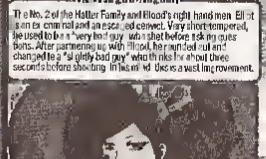
The No. 2 of the Hatter Family and Blood's right hand man. Elliot is an ex-criminal and ex-actor, and clowd. Very short-tempered, he used to be a "very bad guy" who shot before asking questions. After partnering up with Blood, he mellowed out and changed to a "slightly bad guy" who thinks for about three seconds before shooting. His weird diet is a vast improvement.

Blood Dupre
VA - Katsuyuki Konishi

The dangerous leader of the crime syndicate known as the Hatter Family. Since he enjoys plotting more than working directly, he controls everything from the shadows. He is incredibly smart, but due to his temperamental moods and his desire to keep things interesting, he often digs his own grave in his secret plans.

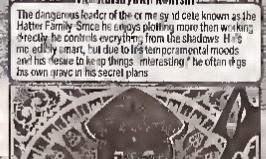
Alice Liddell
VA - Rie Kugimiya

She grew up to be a responsible young woman after losing her mother early, but Alice still carries a complex toward her older sister. She respects her older sister very much, but is frustrated about always being compared to her. Since her first love fell for her older sister, she has no confidence in herself when it comes to romance.



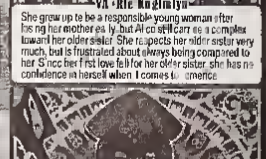
Vivaldi
VA - Yumiko Kobayashi

Ruthless and cruel, the Queen of Hearts is an arrogant beauty with a wild temper. She's enemies with the Hatter and Gowland. Impatient at heart, Vivaldi takes her fury out on everyone around her, including her subordinates, whom she considers pawns. Anyone not working for her doesn't even register as existing.



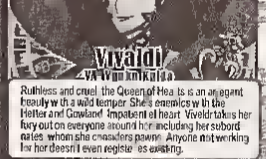
Tweedle Dum
VA - Junji Fukuyama

The second "Bloody Twin" and a dead ringer for his brother—in both appearance and personality. As they often change places, it's uncertain which one is the older twin.



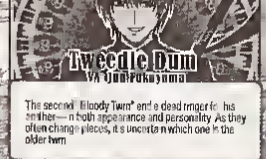
Tweedle Dee
VA - Junji Fukuyama

Gatekeeper of the Hatter territory and one of the dark sneaky twins. They sometimes show an innocent side, but they usually have a malicious agenda. Also known as the "Bloody Twins" due to their unsavory activities.



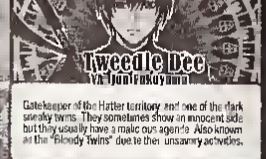
Ace
VA - Daisuke Kishio / Takahiro Sakurai

The knight of Hearts and the ex-subordinate of Vivaldi. He's left the castle and is currently wandering. He is a very mucky and unfortunate man, yet he remains strangely positive. Ace tends to plow forward and make mistakes that only worsen his situation. He is one of the few friends of the clockmaker Julius.



Julius Monrey
VA - Takahiro Kayasu

The clockmaker, a gloomy machine engineer who easily falls into depression. He lives in the Clock Tower and doesn't get out much. He always thinks of everything in the most negative way and tends to distrust people. But he gets along with Ace. He has some pull in the repossessment of the March Hare. Elliot, and is thus the target of Elliot's hatred.



Peter White
VA - Kouki Miyata

Don't be fooled by the cute ears—Peter is the danger you go into when dragged Alice to Wonderland in the first place. He claims to always be worried about the time, despite having a strange grasp on it. Rumors say her heart is as black as his hair is white.

Nightmare
VA - Tomokazu Sugita

A sickly nightmare. He appears in Alice's dreams, sometimes to guide her—and other times, to misguide her.

Mary Gowland
VA - Kenyu Horiuchi

The owner of the Amusement Park. He hides his hated first name, Mary, but pretty much everyone already knows it. His full name is a play on words that sounds like "Merry Go Round" when said quickly. If his musical talent was given a numerical value, it would be closer to negatives than zero.

Boris Airay
VA - Yuri Ishida / Shigeru Ushiyama

A riddle-loving cat with a signature smirk. He sometimes gives hints to his riddles, but the hints usually just cause more confusion. He also has a tendency to pose questions and never answer them.

Alice in the Country of Hearts
ハートの国のアリス
~ Wonderful Wonder World ~

- STORY -

This is a love adventure game. It is based on *Alice in Wonderland*, but evolves into a completely different story.

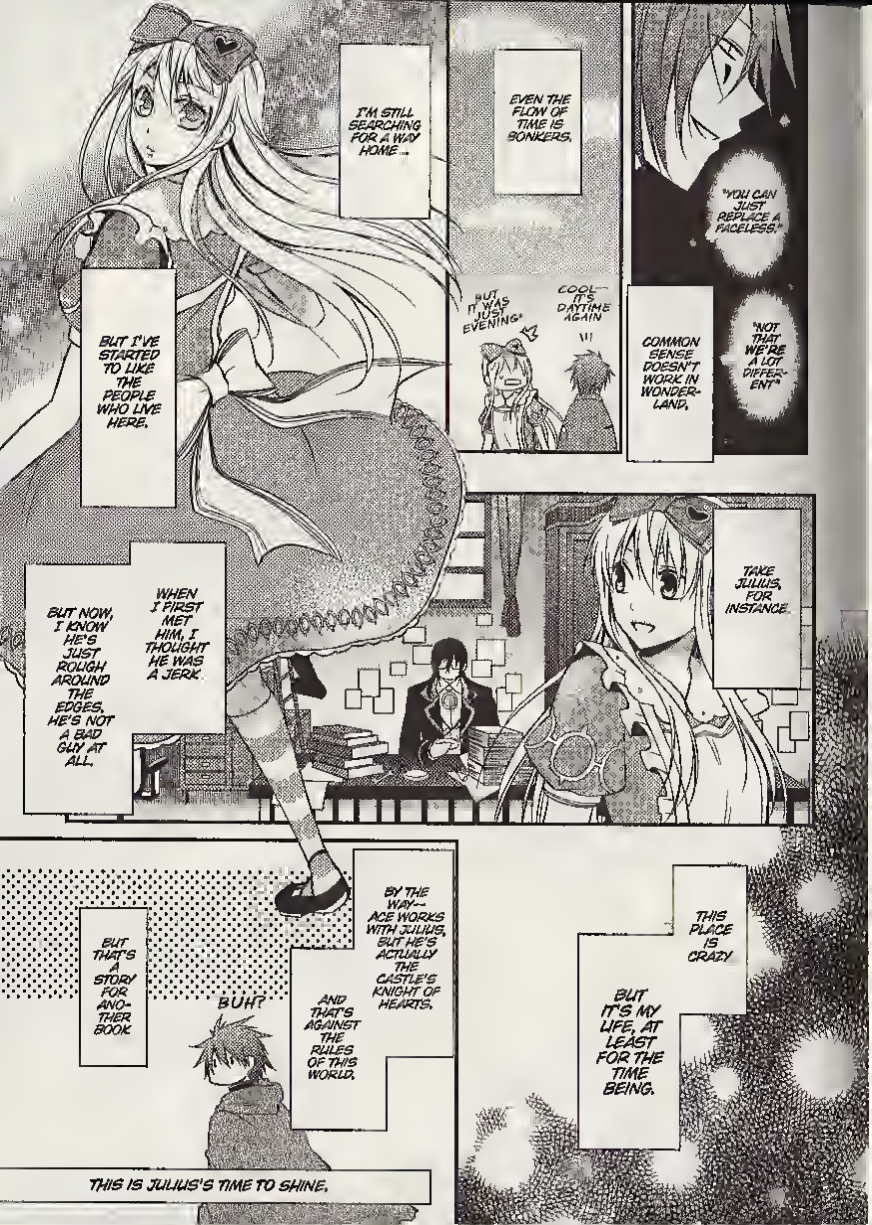
The main character is far from a romantic. In fact, she's especially sick of love relationships.

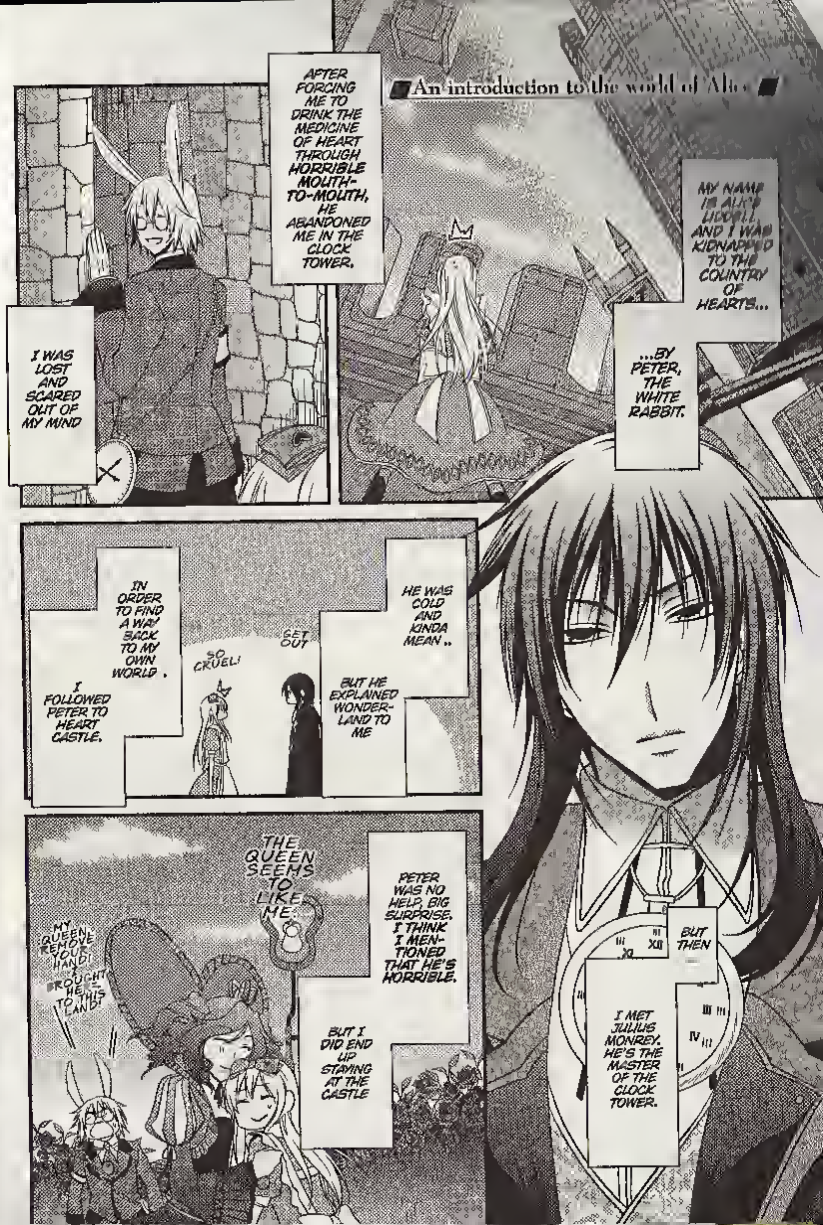
She's pulled (against her will) into the dangerous Country of Hearts, which is not as peaceful as the name makes it sound. The Hatters are a mafia family, and even the employees of the Amusement Park carry weapons.

The leaders of the three domains are constantly trying to kill each other. Many of the skirmishes are the result of territory grabs by three major powers trying to control more land: the Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, and Gowland.

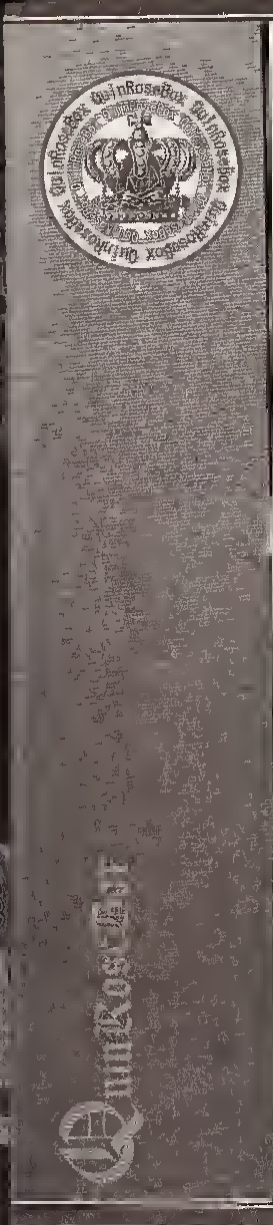
After drinking some strange medicine (again, against her will), the main character is unable to return to her world. She quickly decides that she's trapped in a dream and allows herself to enjoy(?) the extraordinary experience she's been thrown into.

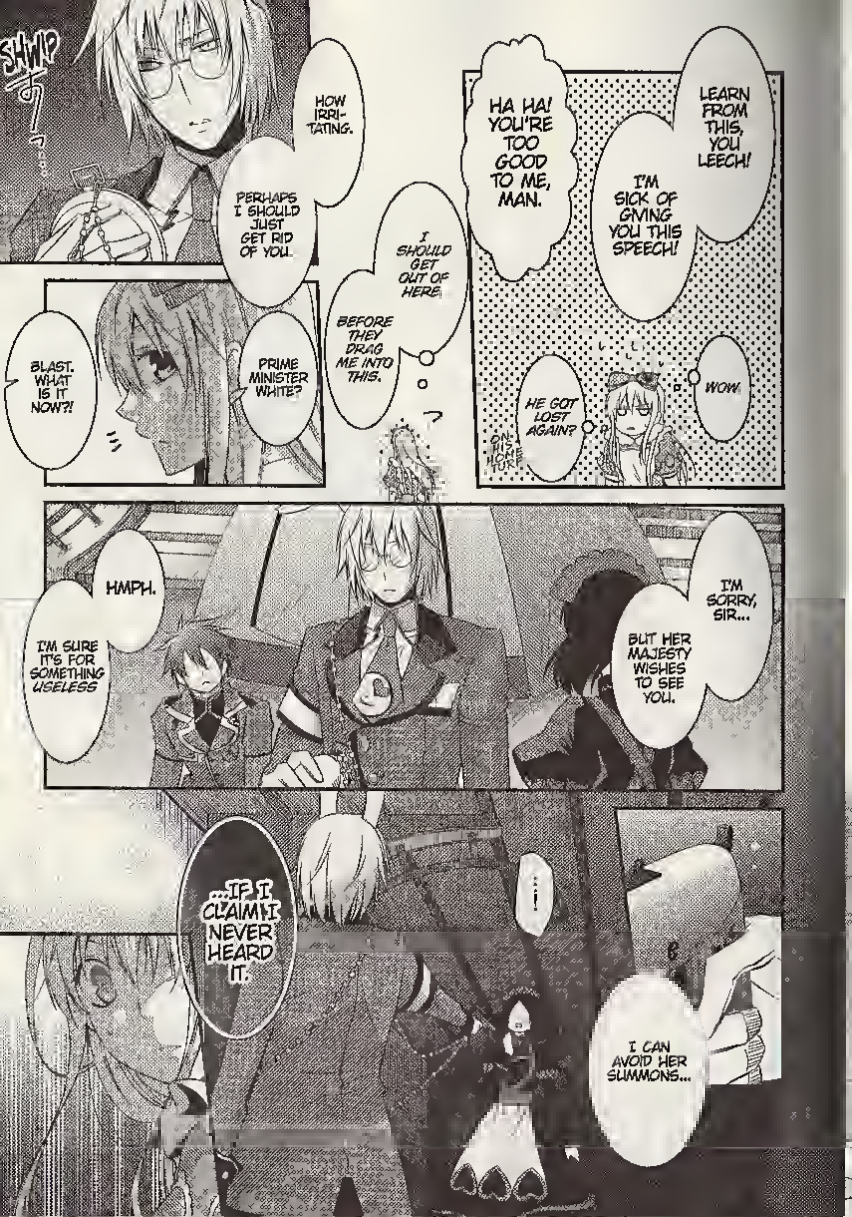
What territory will she stay with and who will she interact with to get herself home...?
And will this girl, so jaded about love, fall into a relationship she doesn't expect?

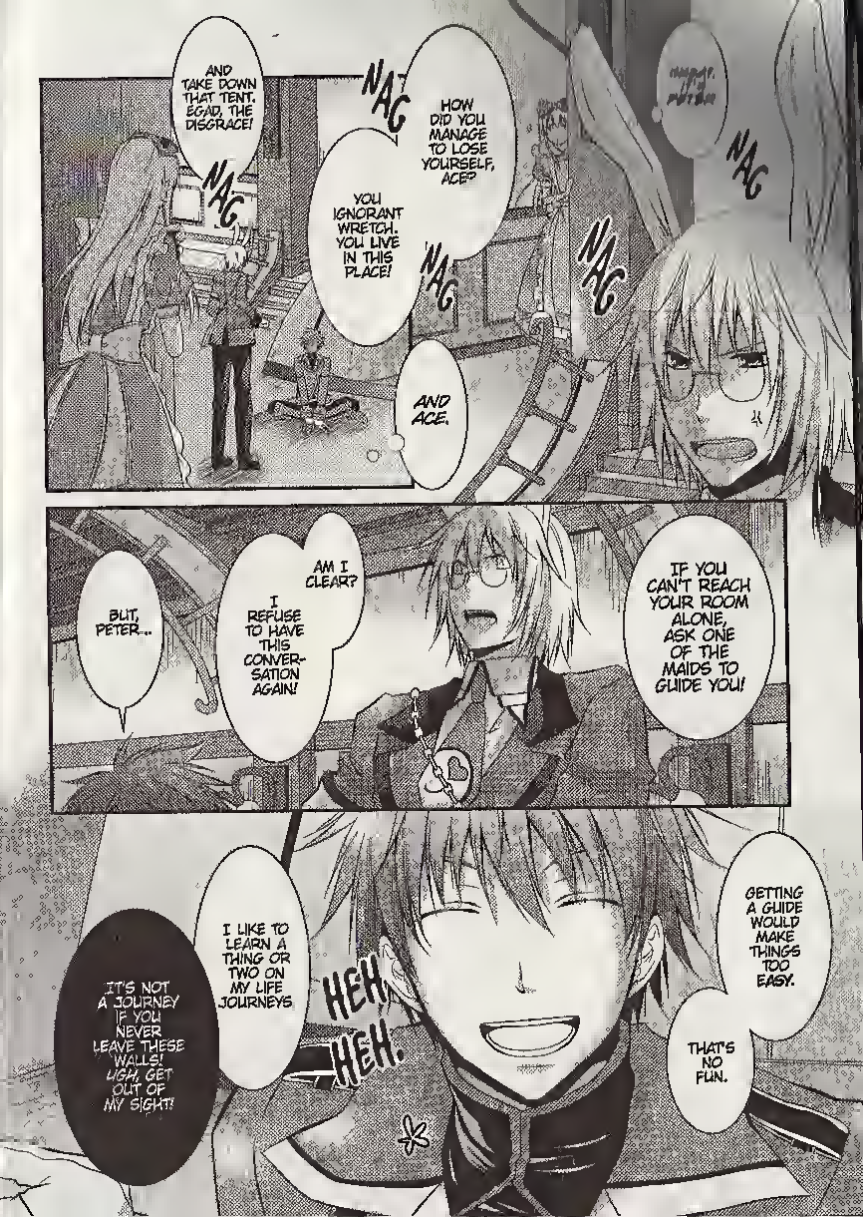

I'M STILL SEARCHING FOR A WAY HOME...
EVEN THE FLOW OF TIME IS BONKERS.
"YOU CAN JUST REPLACE A FACELESS."
"BUT IT WAS JUST EVENING"
COOL— IT'S DAYTIME AGAIN !!!
"NOT THAT WE'RE A LOT DIFFERENT"
COMMON SENSE DOESN'T WORK IN WONDERLAND.
BUT I'VE STARTED TO LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.
TAKE JULIUS, FOR INSTANCE.
WHEN I FIRST MET HIM, I THOUGHT HE WAS A JERK.
BUT NOW, I KNOW HE'S JUST ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, HE'S NOT A BAD GUY AT ALL.
BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER BOOK.
BUH?
BY THE WAY-- ACE WORKS WITH JULIUS, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY THE CASTLE'S KNIGHT OF HEARTS.
AND THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES OF THIS WORLD.
THIS PLACE IS CRAZY
BUT IT'S MY LIFE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.
THIS IS JULIUS'S TIME TO SHINE.


AFTER FORCING ME TO DRINK THE MEDICINE OF HEART THROUGH HORRIBLE MOUTH-TO-MOUTH, HE ABANDONED ME IN THE CLOCK TOWER.
I WAS LOST AND SCARED OUT OF MY MIND
MY NAME IS ALICE LIDDELL AND I WAS KIDNAPPED TO THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS...
...BY PETER, THE WHITE RABBIT.
IN ORDER TO FIND A WAY BACK TO MY OWN WORLD, I FOLLOWED PETER TO HEART CASTLE.
SO CRUEL!
GET OUT
HE WAS COLD AND KINDA MEAN..
BUT HE EXPLAINED WONDERLAND TO ME
THE QUEEN SEEMS TO LIKE ME.
MY QUEEN REMOVE YOUR HANDS! BROUGHT HER TO THIS LAND!
PETER WAS NO HELP, BIG SURPRISE. I THINK I MENTIONED THAT HE'S HORRIBLE.
BUT I DID END UP STAYING AT THE CASTLE
BUT THEN
I MET JULIUS MONREY. HE'S THE MASTER OF THE CLOCK TOWER.

IS THIS A DREAM? OR REALITY? OR SOME SORT OF ILLUSION...

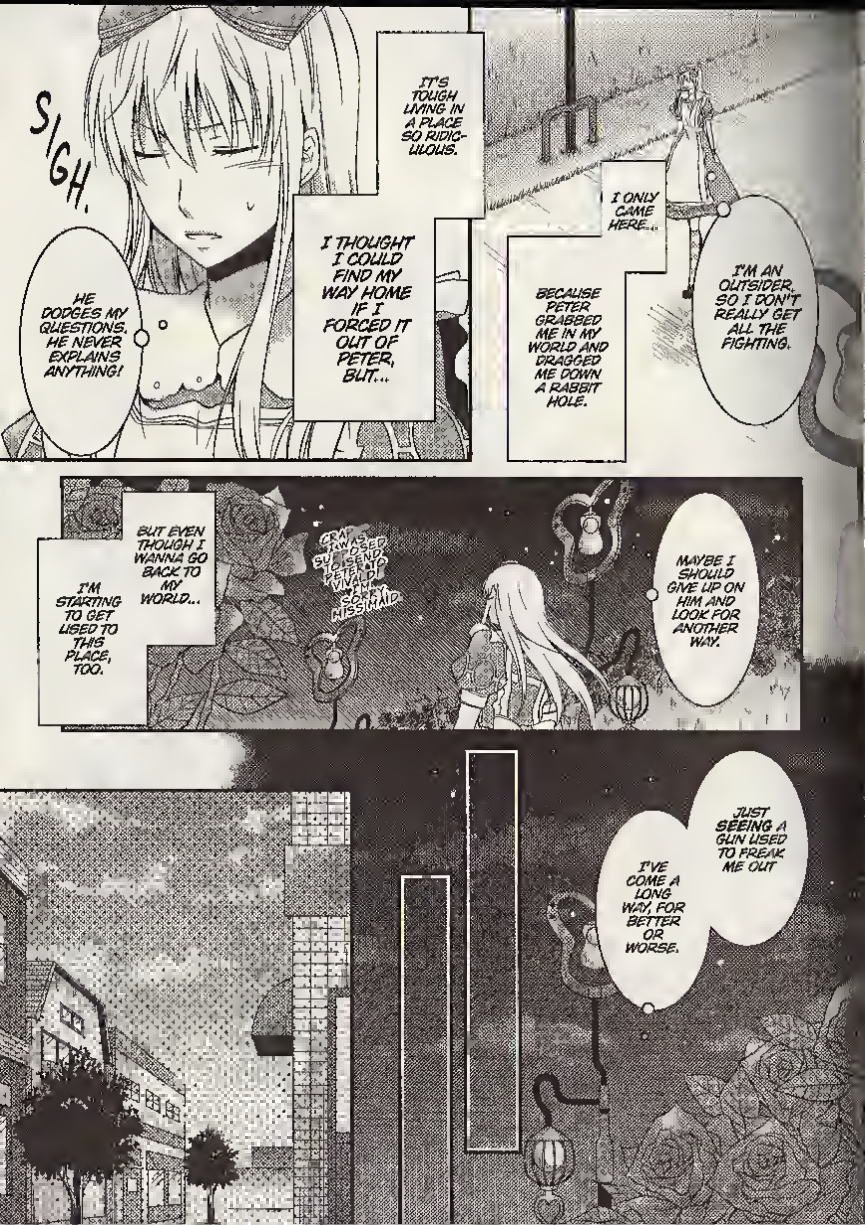

Chrono Rose

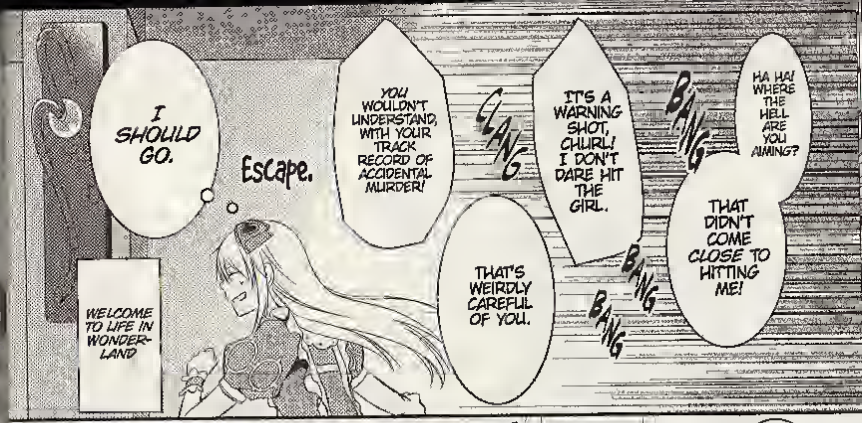

SHWIP
HOW IRRITATING.
PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST GET RID OF YOU.
BLAST. WHAT IS IT NOW?!
PRIME MINISTER WHITE?
I SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
BEFORE THEY DRAG ME INTO THIS.
HA HA! YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO ME, MAN.
LEARN FROM THIS, YOU LEECH!
I'M SICK OF GIVING YOU THIS SPEECH!
HE GOT LOST AGAIN?
WOW.
ONE HOUR LATER
HMPH.
I'M SURE IT'S FOR SOMETHING USELESS
I'M SORRY, SIR...
BUT HER MAJESTY WISHES TO SEE YOU.
...IF I CLAIM I NEVER HEARD IT.
I CAN AVOID HER SUMMONS...

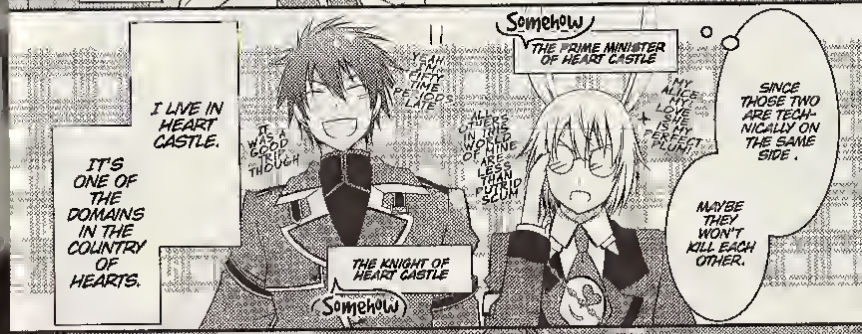

AND TAKE DOWN THAT TENT. EGAD, THE DISGRACE!
NAG
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO LOSE YOURSELF, ACE?
YOU IGNORANT WRETCH. YOU LIVE IN THIS PLACE!
AND ACE.
IF YOU CAN'T REACH YOUR ROOM ALONE, ASK ONE OF THE MAIDS TO GUIDE YOU!
AM I CLEAR?
I REFUSE TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION AGAIN!
BUT, PETER...
GETTING A GUIDE WOULD MAKE THINGS TOO EASY.
THAT'S NO FUN.
I LIKE TO LEARN A THING OR TWO ON MY LIFE JOURNEYS.
IT'S NOT A JOURNEY IF YOU NEVER LEAVE THESE WALLS! UGH, GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
HEH. HEH.

NO!
WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SAY, ACE, YOU CAN SAY FROM OVER THERE.
FWIP
PETER'S A BIIIG FAN OF YOU, ALICE.
NEVER. LET GO.
SQUEEZE
ALICE, MY SWEET.
I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO VISIT MY ROOM FROM TIME TO TIME.
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE!
YOUR FILTHY SKIN IS CRAWLING WITH GERMS!
GERMS? LIKE FROM BEING DIRTY?
I THINK I'M AS CLEAN AS THE NEXT GUY.
OPEN
I DON'T WANT YOU INFECTING HER WITH YOUR DISGUSTING GERMS!
UNHAND HER AT ONCE!
BANG
BANG
BANG
SHE'LL CATCH YOUR IDIOCY!
AH!
I JUST TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH HER!
PAT
BUT I'VE GOT MY OWN INTEREST IN ALICE, PETER.
YOU CAN'T HOG THE ONLY OUTSIDER WE'VE GOT.

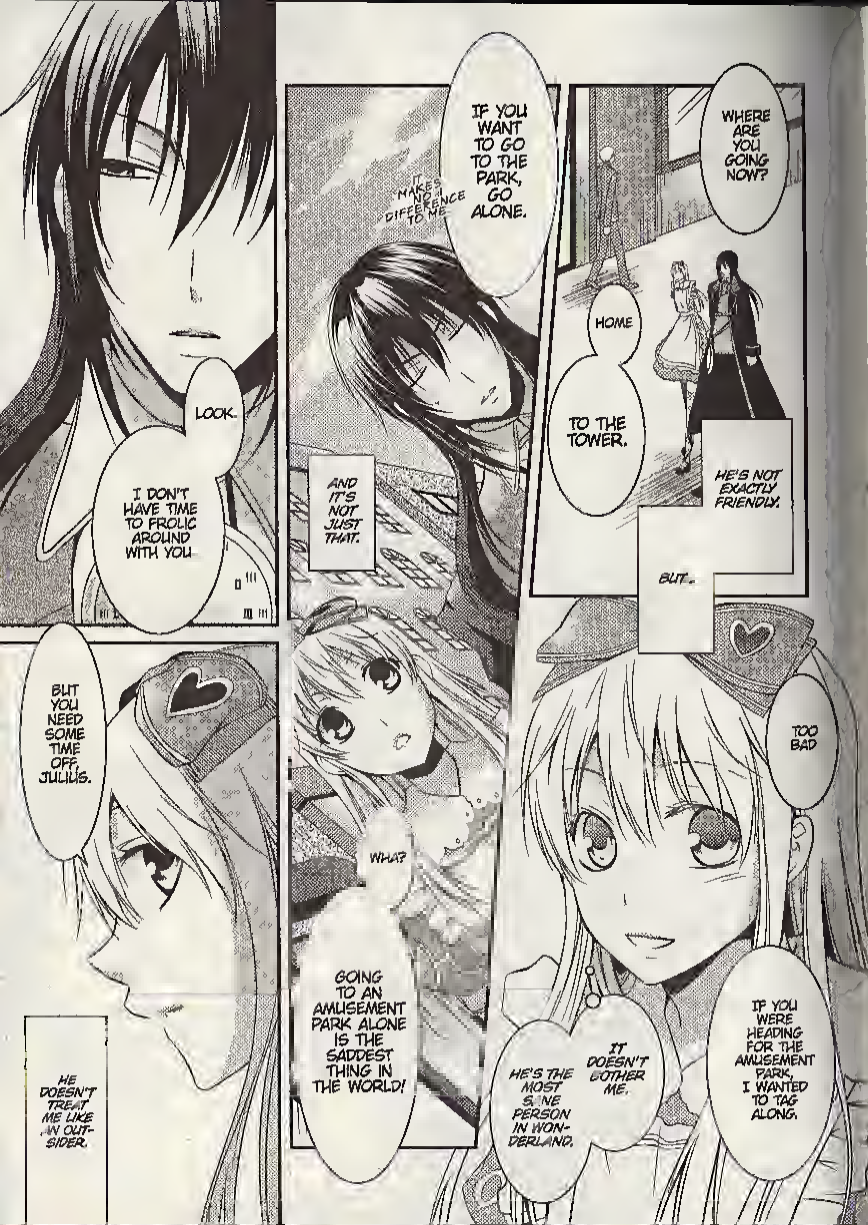
AH!
HOW GRAND THAT YOU SHOULD APPEAR FROM THIN AIR!
SCOOT
CRAP
NOW I'VE DONE IT.
GRAB
STOP!!
ALICE!
'TIS THE POWER OF LOVE. WE ARE DESTINED TO PAIR...!
IS THIS JUST LUCK?
WERE YOU CALLED BY MY PRAYER?!
IT'S OK.
I'VE GOT THIS.
I KNOW! GET OFF!
I LOVE YOU, ALICE!


SIGH.
HE DODGES MY QUESTIONS. HE NEVER EXPLAINS ANYTHING!
I THOUGHT I COULD FIND MY WAY HOME IF I FORCED IT OUT OF PETER, BUT...
IT'S TOUGH LIVING IN A PLACE SO RIDICULOUS.
I ONLY CAME HERE...
BECAUSE PETER GRABBED ME IN MY WORLD AND DRAGGED ME DOWN A RABBIT HOLE.
I'M AN OUTSIDER, SO I DON'T REALLY GET ALL THE FIGHTING.
I'M STARTING TO GET USED TO THIS PLACE, TOO.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I WANNA GO BACK TO MY WORLD...
I'M STUPIDLY PISSED AND PETTED AND PISSED AND PETTED AND PISSED AND SORRY AND PISSED AND
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE UP ON HIM AND LOOK FOR ANOTHER WAY.
I'VE COME A LONG WAY, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
JUST SEEING A GUN USED TO FREAK ME OUT

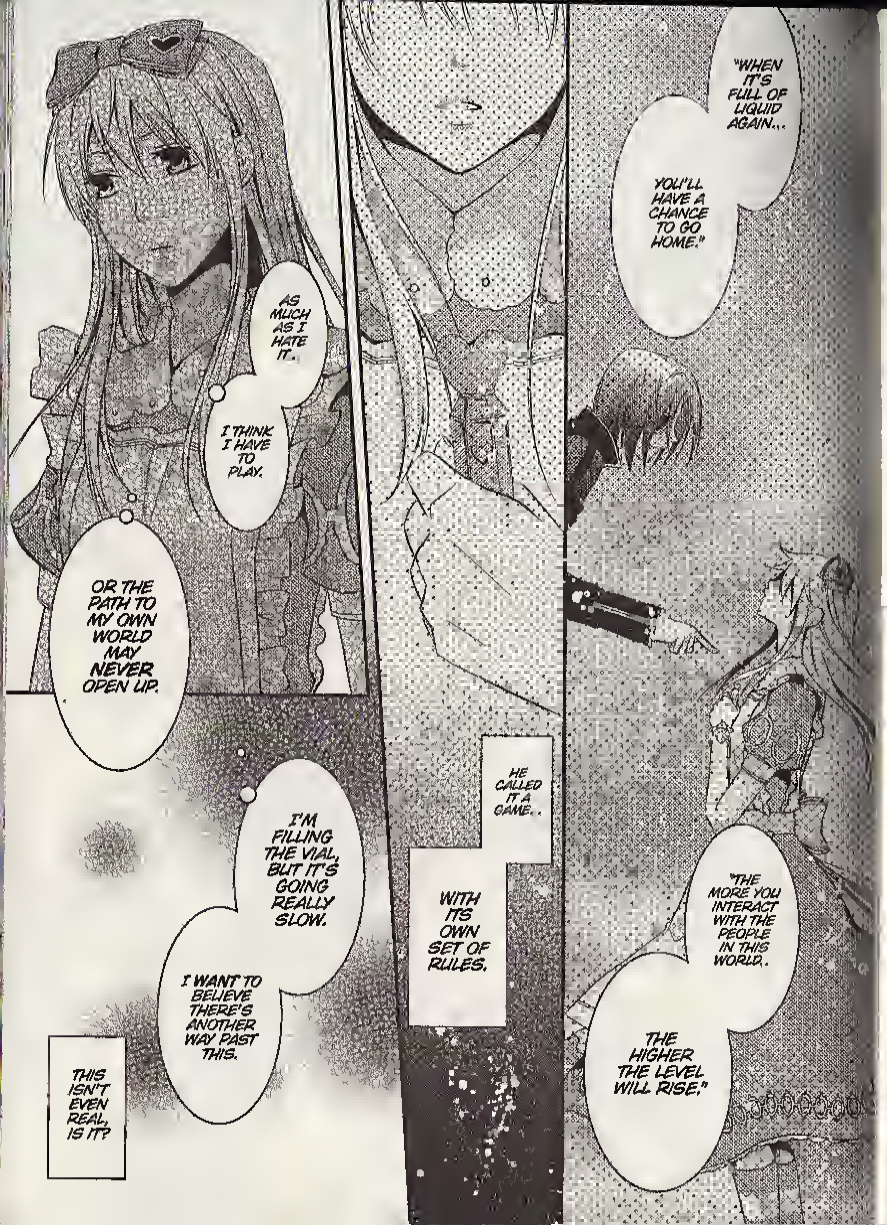

I SHOULD GO.
Escape.
WELCOME TO LIFE IN WONDER-LAND
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, WITH YOUR TRACK RECORD OF ACCIDENTAL MURDER!
CLANG
IT'S A WARNING SHOT, CHURL! I DON'T DARE HIT THE GIRL.
BANG
HA HA! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU AIMING?
THAT DIDN'T COME CLOSE TO HITTING ME!
BANG
BANG
THAT'S WEIRDLY CAREFUL OF YOU.


I LIVE IN HEART CASTLE.
IT'S ONE OF THE DOMAINS IN THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS.
Somehow
THE PRIME MINISTER OF HEART CASTLE
THE KNIGHT OF HEART CASTLE
Somehow
SINCE THOSE TWO ARE TECHNICALLY ON THE SAME SIDE.
MAYBE THEY WON'T KILL EACH OTHER.

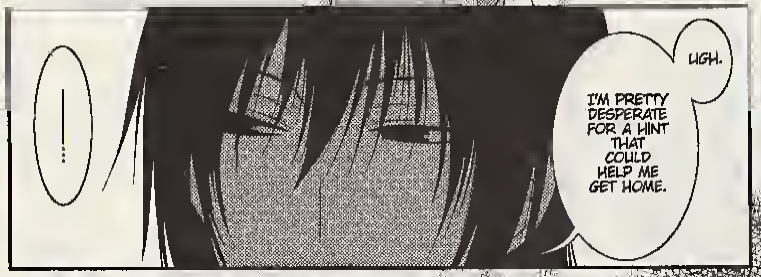
THE CLOCK TOWER IS THE ONLY NEUTRAL ZONE.
THEY ALL HAVE GUNS AND ARE OUT OF THEIR MINDS
BUT THERE'S A WAR BETWEEN THE THREE POWERS HERE HEART CASTLE HATTER MANSION, AND THE LIH AMUSEMENT PARK.
I KNOW IT. LOOKS LIKE A FAIRY-TALE...

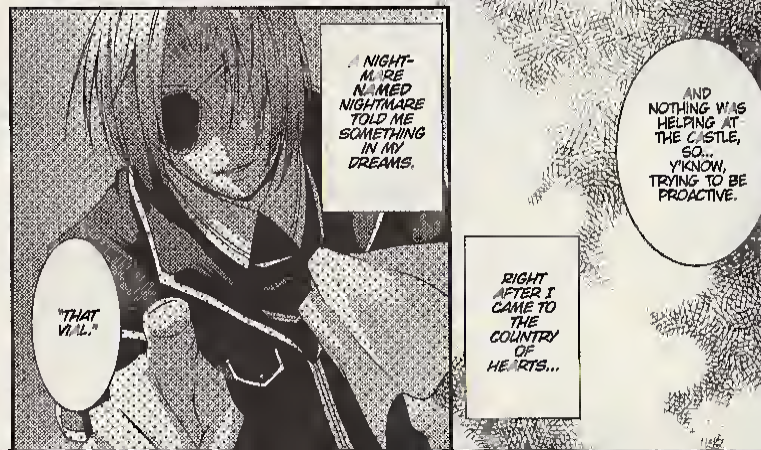

HE DOESN'T TREAT ME LIKE AN OUTSIDER.
BUT YOU NEED SOME TIME OFF, JULIUS.
LOOK.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FROLIC AROUND WITH YOU.
GOING TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK ALONE IS THE SADDEST THING IN THE WORLD!
WHAT?
IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE PARK, GO ALONE.
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
HE'S THE MOST SOLITARY PERSON IN WONDERLAND.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?
HOME
TO THE TOWER.
HE'S NOT EXACTLY FRIENDLY.
BUT...
TOO BAD
IF YOU WERE HEADING FOR THE AMUSEMENT PARK, I WANTED TO TAG ALONG.

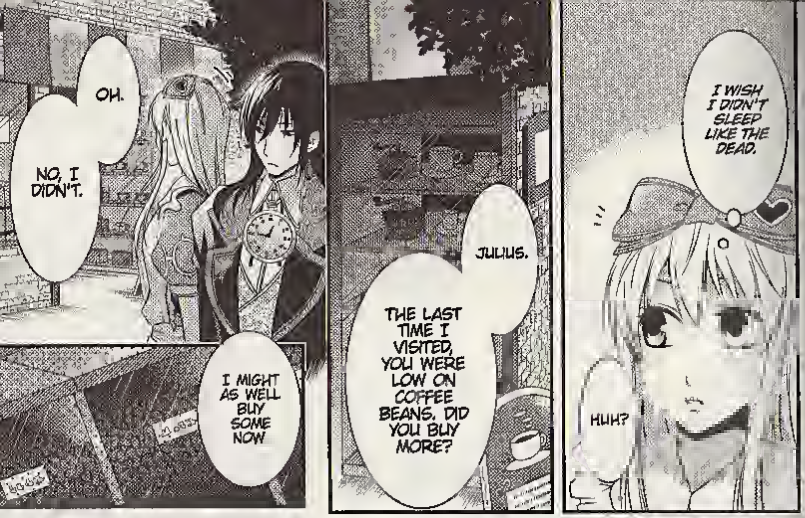
HUH? HEY!
JULIUS!
MM.
HAVEN'T BEEN TO TOWN IN A WHILE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MAYBE I NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HOW TO GET HOME.
NOTHING
JUST THOUGHT I'D SAY HI.
IT'S YOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HOW ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?
FINE
BUT I HAVE TO BE
MY WORK NEEDS ME IN GOOD HEALTH.
YOU CARE WAY TOO MUCH ABOUT YOUR JOB.
LIGHTEN UP, JEEZ
I CARE THE EXACT RIGHT AMOUNT.
BE QUIET
JULIUS MONREY.
HE'S THE LEADER OF THE CLOCK TOWER.

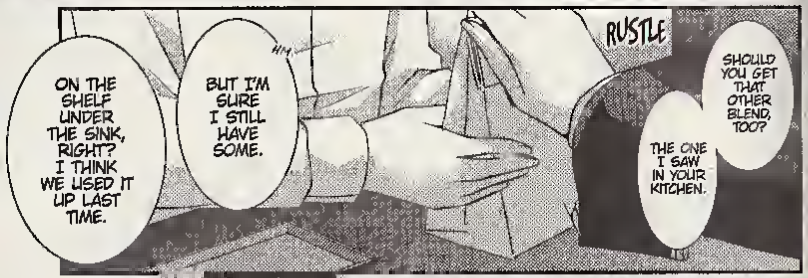

"WHEN IT'S FULL OF LIQUID AGAIN...
YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO HOME."
AS MUCH AS I HATE IT..
I THINK I HAVE TO PLAY.
OR THE PATH TO MY OWN WORLD MAY NEVER OPEN UP.
HE CALLED IT A GAME..
WITH ITS OWN SET OF RULES.
"THE MORE YOU INTERACT WITH THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD..
I'M FILLING THE VIAL, BUT IT'S GOING REALLY SLOW.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY PAST THIS.
THE HIGHER THE LEVEL WILL RISE,"
THIS ISN'T EVEN REAL, IS IT?

WELL...
I DIDN'T HAVE A SPECIFIC REASON.
OTHER THAN WANTING TO TALK TO SOMEONE NEW.
DON'T YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO?
WHY ARE YOU IN TOWN?
AND THAT
IS REALLY COMFORTING SOMETIMES

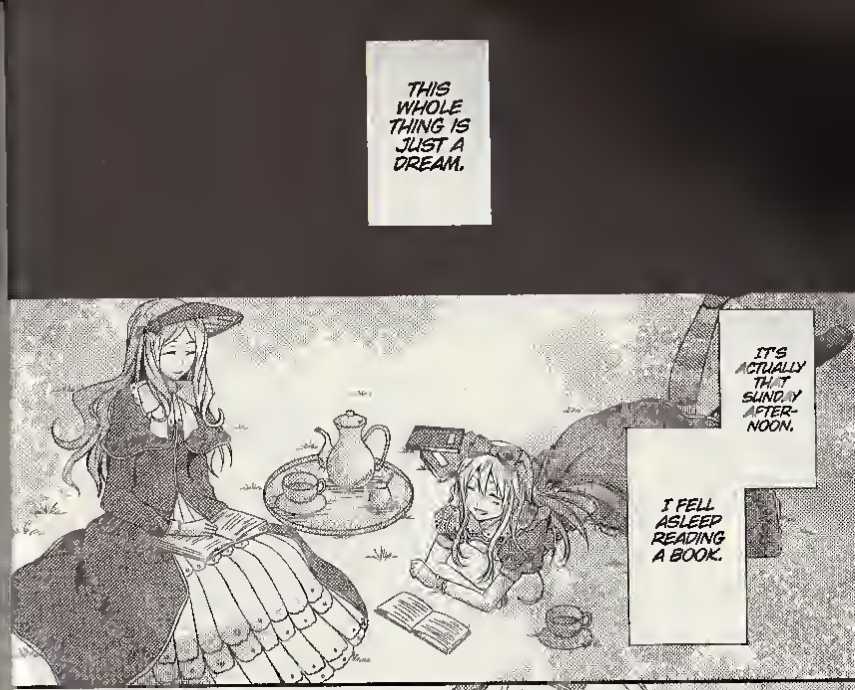

!...
UGH.
I'M PRETTY DESPERATE FOR A HINT THAT COULD HELP ME GET HOME.


"THAT VIAL."
A NIGHT-MARE NAMED NIGHTMARE TOLD ME SOMETHING IN MY DREAMS.
RIGHT AFTER I CAME TO THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS...
AND NOTHING WAS HELPING AT THE CASTLE, SO... Y'KNOW, TRYING TO BE PROACTIVE.


I WISH I DIDN'T SLEEP LIKE THE DEAD.
HUH?
JULIUS.
THE LAST TIME I VISITED, YOU WERE LOW ON COFFEE BEANS. DID YOU BUY MORE?
OH.
NO, I DIDN'T.
I MIGHT AS WELL BUY SOME NOW


RUSTLE
SHOULD YOU GET THAT OTHER BLEND, TOO?
THE ONE I SAW IN YOUR KITCHEN.
HM
BUT I'M SURE I STILL HAVE SOME.
ON THE SHELF UNDER THE SINK, RIGHT? I THINK WE USED IT UP LAST TIME.

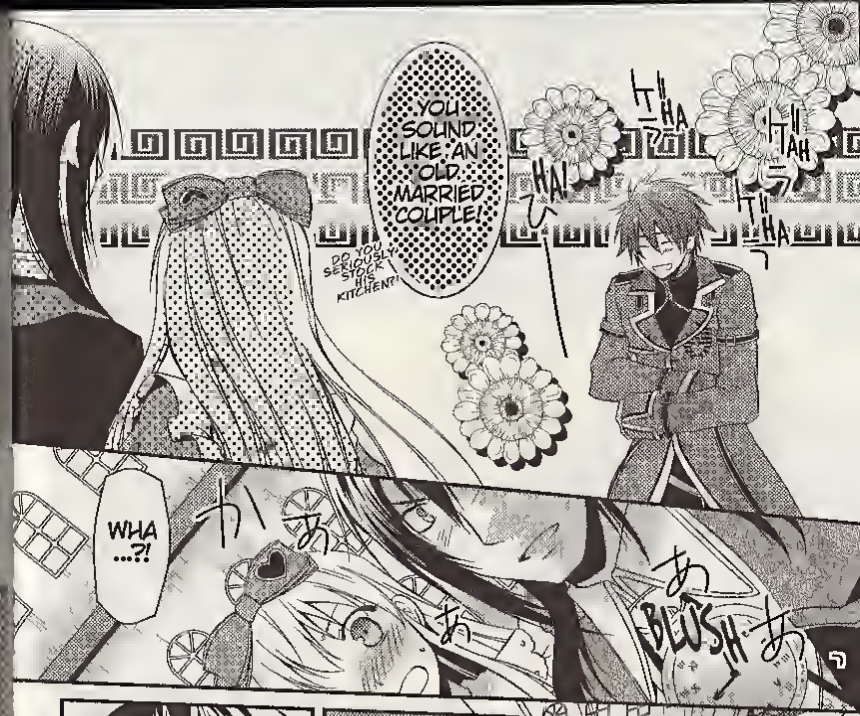
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
YEAH.
I CAN STOP AT A SECOND PLACE.
HA HA HA HA!
AND I THINK YOU'RE OUT OF---

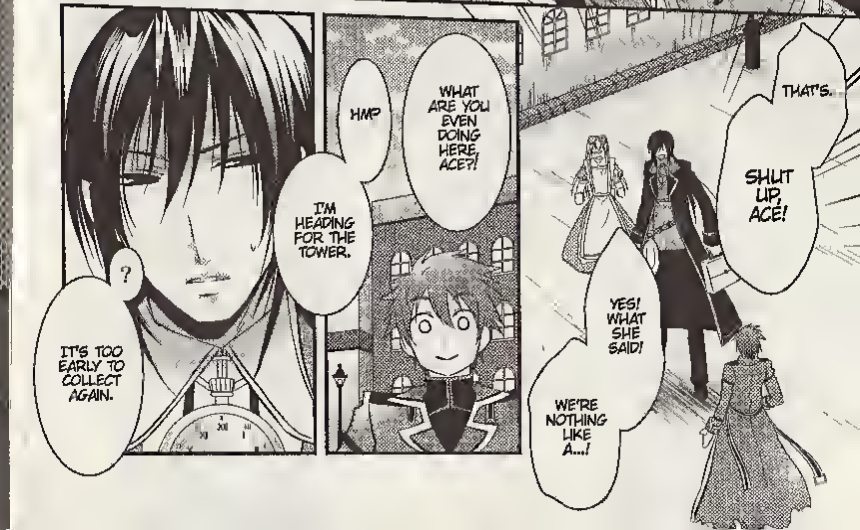

THIS WHOLE THING IS JUST A DREAM.
IT'S ACTUALLY THAT SUNDAY AFTER-NOON.
I FELL ASLEEP READING A BOOK.

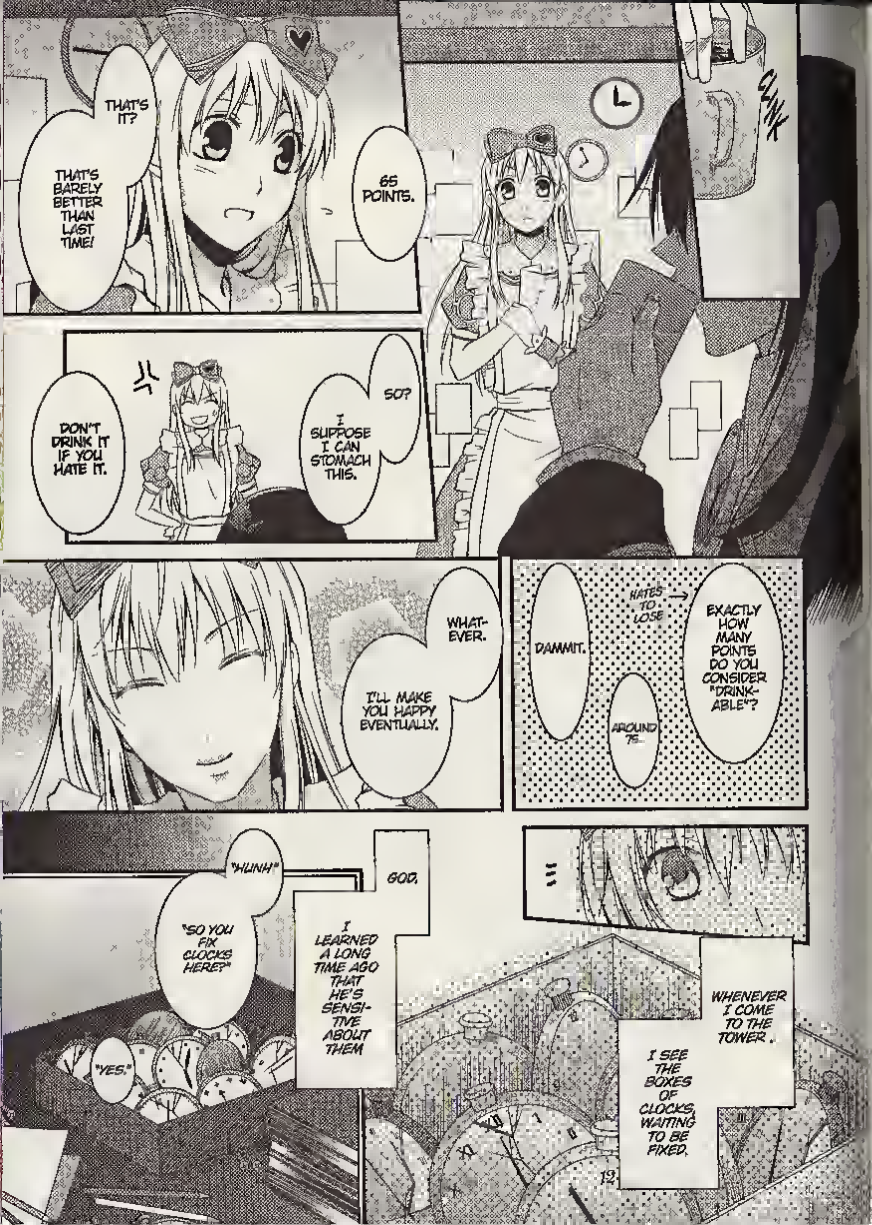
I'M JUST STUCK IN A DREAM.
I WONDER IF THE TIME I SPEND HERE IS ONLY A FEW HOURS IN REAL LIFE?
BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE FOR AGES.
MY OLDER SISTER PROBABLY NOTICED...
AND INSTEAD OF MAKING FUN OF ME, I BET SHE COVERED ME WITH A BLANKET.

BUT I MIGHT REACH THE TOWER TOO EARLY AT THIS RATE.
AND LOOK HOW CLOSE I AM ALREADY!
HE ONLY MADE IT TO TOWN IN TEN TIME PERIODS?
GRIN
YEAH, BUT I'M ALWAYS LATE.
SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO BE ON TIME AND LEFT THE CASTLE TEN TIME PERIODS AGO!

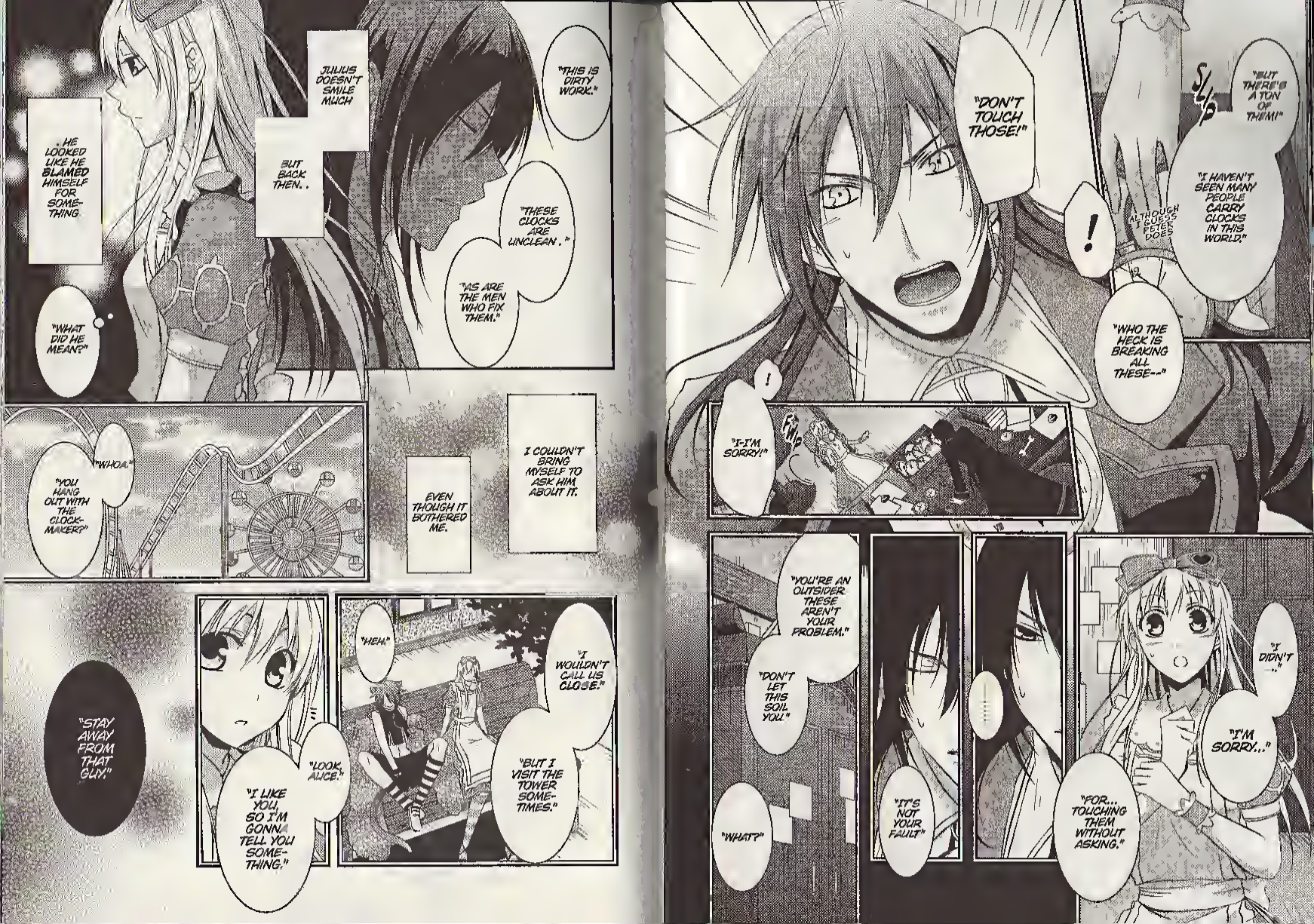
GRAB
I'LL WANDER AROUND AWHILE.
DON'T, YOU IMBECILE.
IDIOT!
.....


YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY STOCK HIS KITCHEN?!
HA
HA
HA
HA
WHA ...?!
BLUSH


WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE, ACE?!
HMP
I'M HEADING FOR THE TOWER.
?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO COLLECT AGAIN.
THAT'S...
SHUT UP, ACE!
YES! WHAT SHE SAID!
WE'RE NOTHING LIKE A...!

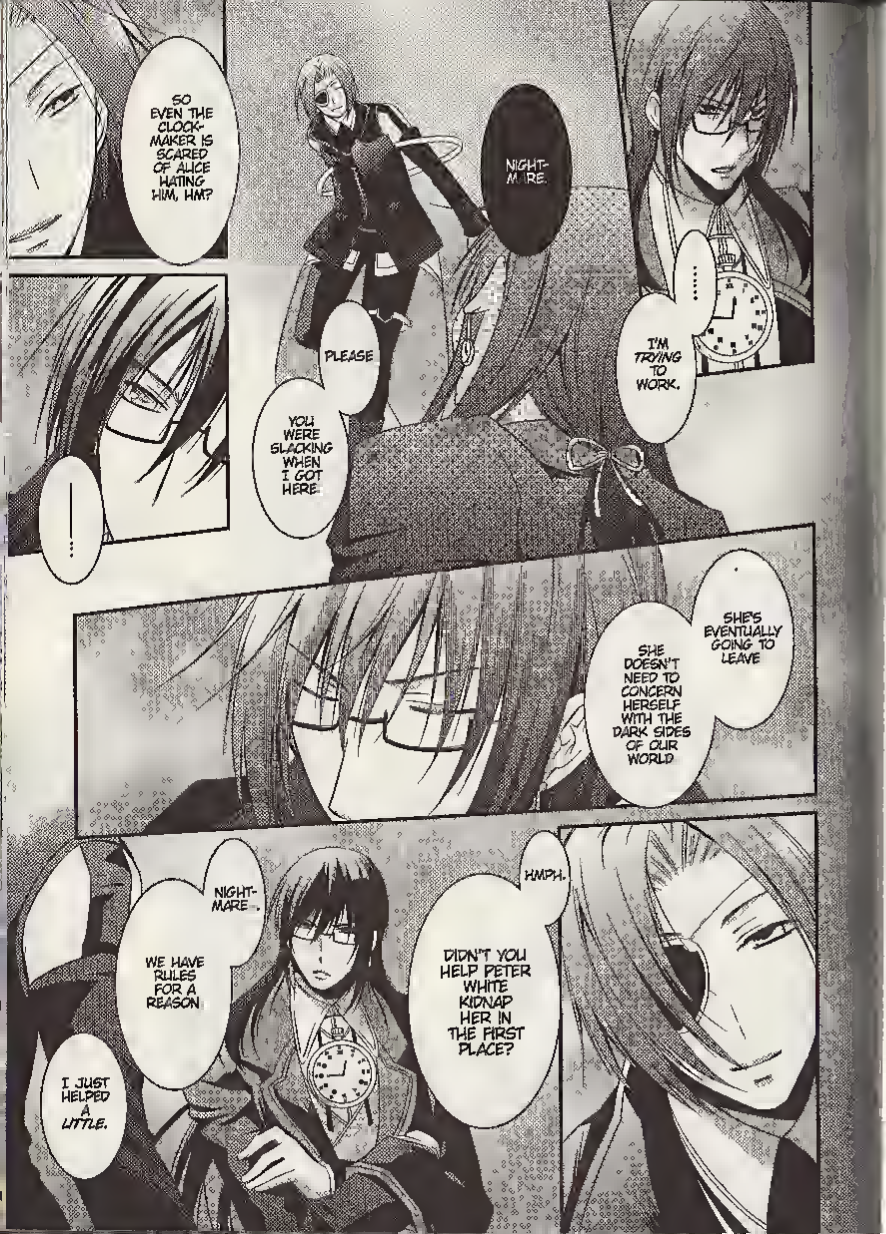

THAT'S IT?
THAT'S BARELY BETTER THAN LAST TIME!
65 POINTS.
CLINK
DON'T DRINK IT IF YOU HATE IT.
I SUPPOSE I CAN STOMACH THIS.
SO?
WHAT-EVER.
I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY EVENTUALLY.
DAMMIT.
HATES TO LOSE
AROUND 75...
EXACTLY HOW MANY POINTS DO YOU CONSIDER "DRINK-ABLE"?
"HUNH"
"SO YOU FIX CLOCKS HERE?"
"YES."
GOD.
I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO THAT HE'S SENSI-TIVE ABOUT THEM
I SEE THE BOXES OF CLOCKS, WAITING TO BE FIXED.
WHENEVER I COME TO THE TOWER.

COOL.
I'M OFF TO COLLECT AGAIN.
THANK YOU.
AH HA HA HA!
NOW YOU OLYM ARE PINISHING EACH OTHER'S SEN-TENCES!
FEEL FREE TO GET COMFORT-ABLE NOW THAT I'M LEAVING YOU ALONE
SEE YA.
SHAK
ER...
I'LL MAKE SOME OF THAT COFFEE
CLINK
PLEASE.
OKAY.
I HELPED JULIUS DRAG ACE HERE... NOW WHAT?
WHY WON'T HE SHUT UP?!
KA-CHUNK

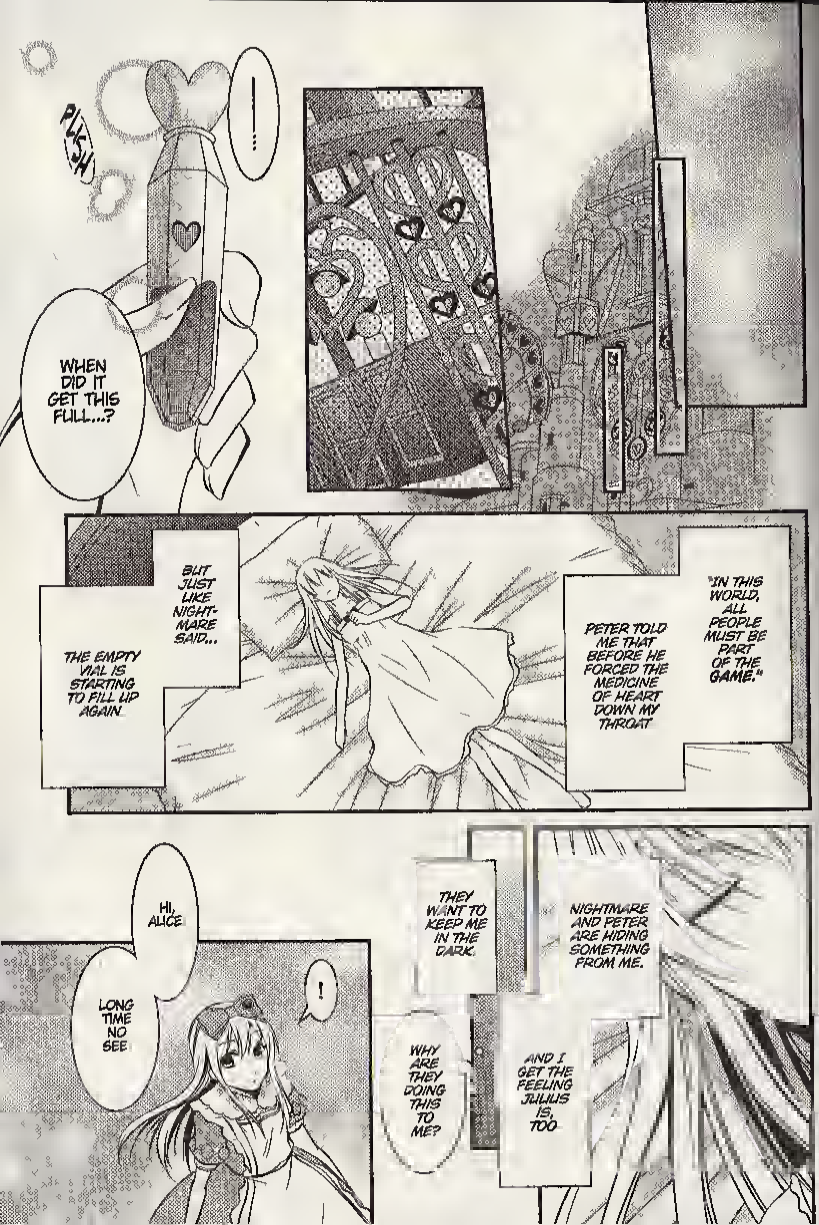

"THIS IS DIRTY WORK."
JULIUS DOESN'T SMILE MUCH
BUT BACK THEN. .
"THESE CLOCKS ARE UNCLEAN."
"AS ARE THE MEN WHO FIX THEM."
. HE LOOKED LIKE HE BLAMED HIMSELF FOR SOME-THING.
"WHAT DID HE MEAN?"
"WHOA."
"YOU HANG OUT WITH THE CLOCK-MAKER?"
EVEN THOUGH IT BOTHERED ME.
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK HIM ABOUT IT.
"STAY AWAY FROM THAT GUY."
"I LIKE YOU, SO I'M GONNA TELL YOU SOME-THING."
"LOOK, ALICE."
"HEH."
"I WOULDN'T CALL US CLOSE."
"BUT I VISIT THE TOWER SOME-TIMES."
"DON'T TOUCH THOSE!"
!
"I-I'M SORRY!"
FWIP
"YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER THESE AREN'T YOUR PROBLEM."
"DON'T LET THIS SOIL YOU."
"WHAT?"
"IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT"
"FOR... TOUCHING THEM WITHOUT ASKING."
"I DIDN'T..."
"I'M SORRY..."
"WHO THE HECK IS BREAKING ALL THESE--"
ALTHOUGH I GUESS PETER DOES
"I HAVEN'T SEEN MANY PEOPLE CARRY CLOCKS IN THIS WORLD."
SLIP
"BUT THERE'S A TON OF THEM!"

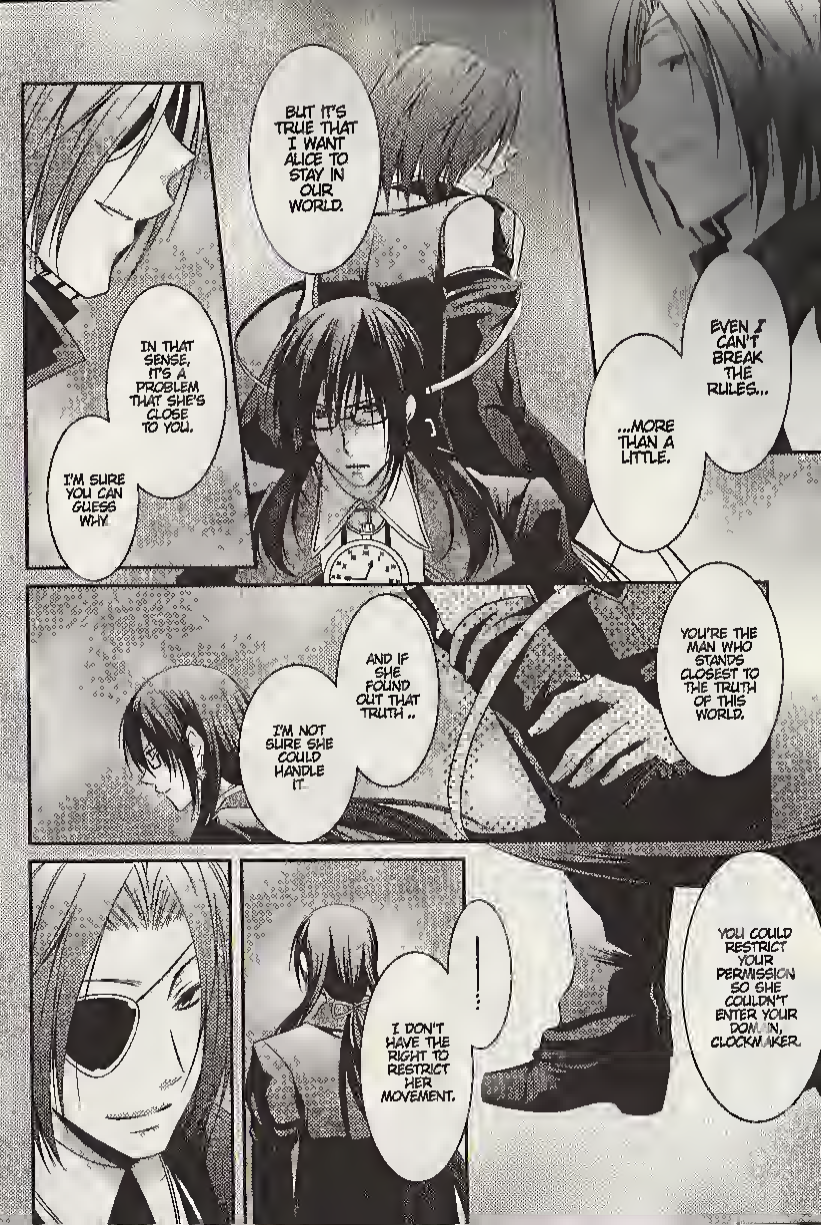
I THOUGHT I WAS CLEAR WHEN I SAID THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!
CLATTER
LOOK, I JUST...!
CAN I... HELP YOU SOMEHOW?
JULIUS
I CAN'T HELP YOU FIX THE CLOCKS, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE I HAVE NO IDEA HOW.
BUT MAYBE I COULD DO SOMETHING ELSE? LIKE RUN ERRANDS FOR YOU?
I THINK I'M GONNA BE STUCK IN THIS WORLD AWHILE.
AND I..
SO IT'S NOT JUST HELPING YOU--IT'S HELPING ME.
LET ME HELP YOU, JULIUS!
I DON'T GET AS DEPRESSED WHEN I STAY BUSY.
SQUEEZE
WHY DID THAT SOUND SELFISH?

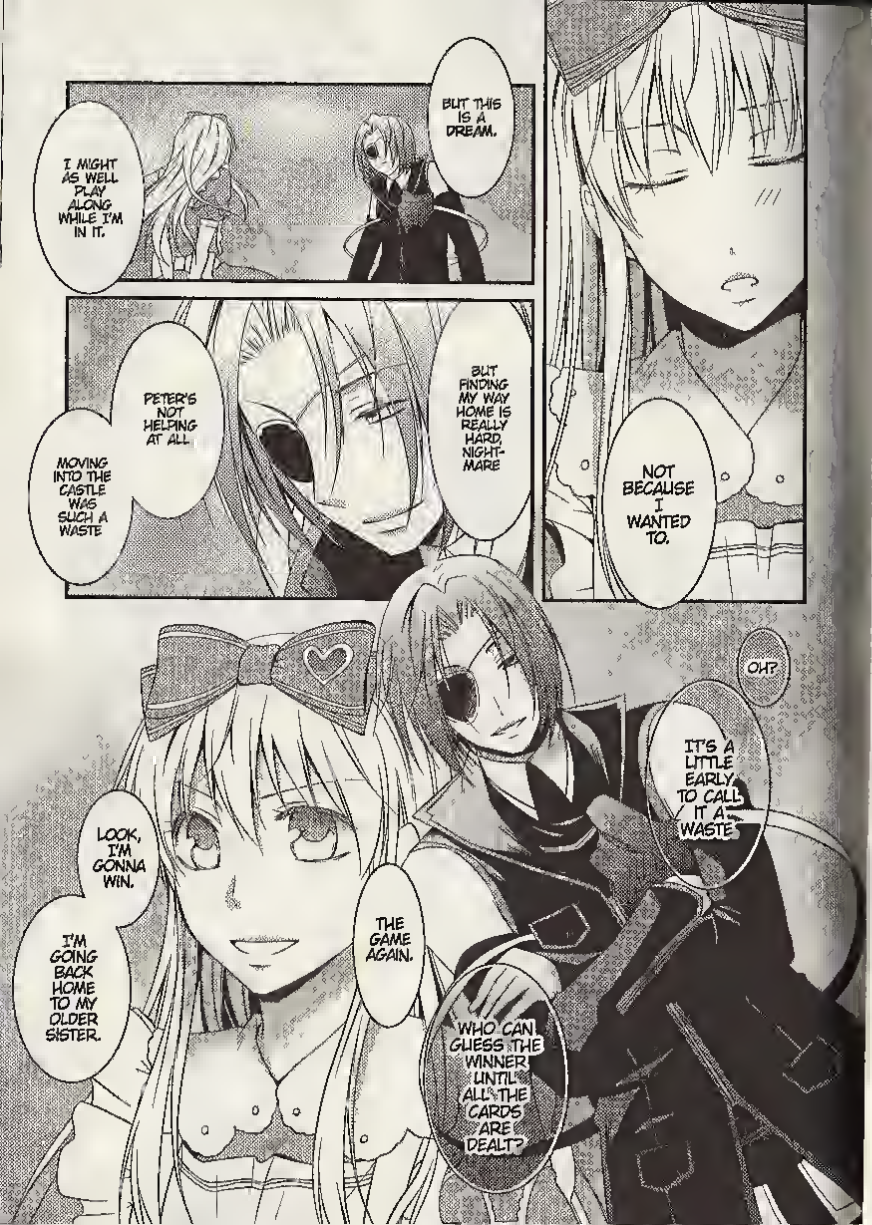
"HUH?"
"WHY?"
"YOU DON'T WANNA GET DRAGGED INTO THAT."
GRUDGE?
AGAINST JULIUS?
CONSIDERING HOW NORMAL HE SEEMED, I HAD TROUBLE BELIEVING ANYONE COULD HATE HIM LIKE THAT.
"A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM."
!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I HOPE YOU'RE SLEEPING ENOUGH.
!
YOU'RE KINDA PALE.
I'M FINE.
FLINCH
GAH! UH...
N-NOTHING!
I WAS JUST... THINKING ABOUT HOW YOUR WORKLOAD NEVER ENDS!
I WASN'T CLOSING MY EYES OR ANYTHING


SO EVEN THE CLOCK-MAKER IS SCARED OF ALICE HATING HIM, HM?
NIGHT-MARE.
I'M TRYING TO WORK.
PLEASE
YOU WERE SLACKING WHEN I GOT HERE.
SHE'S EVENTUALLY GOING TO LEAVE
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO CONCERN HERSELF WITH THE DARK SIDES OF OUR WORLD
NIGHT-MARE...
WE HAVE RULES FOR A REASON.
I JUST HELPED A LITTLE.
HMPH.
DIDN'T YOU HELP PETER WHITE KIDNAP HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I DON'T NEED HELP.
F-FINE. NEVER MIND.
I GUESS DOING LITTLE CHORES WOULDN'T HELP MUCH, ANYWAY.
I DON'T MEAN TO DISTRACT YOU.
I SHOULD... GET HOME.
EXCUSE ME?!
HEH HEH
KIDDING.
SEE YOU.
KA-CHUNK
TAP TAP

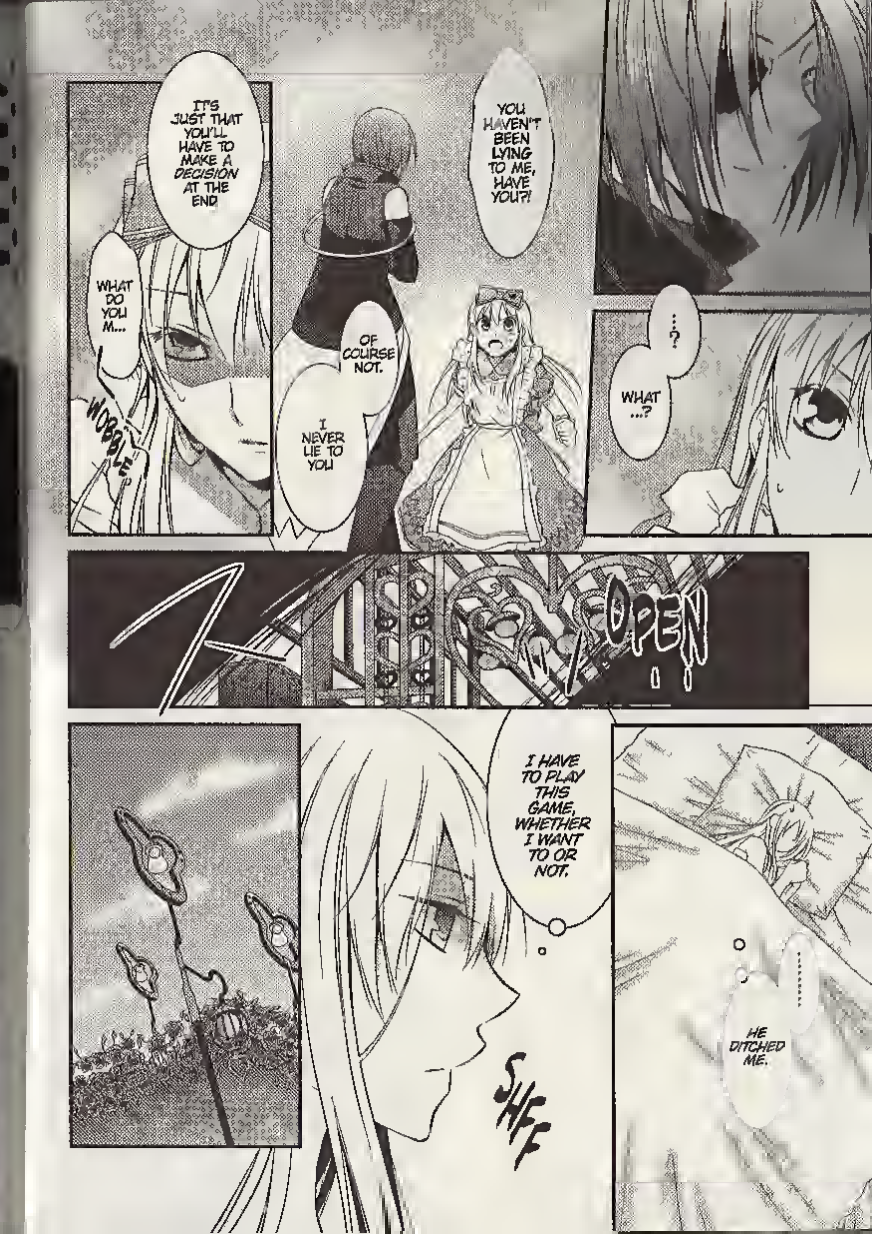

PLESH
...!
WHEN DID IT GET THIS FULL...?
THE EMPTY VIAL IS STARTING TO FILL UP AGAIN.
BUT JUST LIKE NIGHT-MARE SAID...
PETER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE HE FORCED THE MEDICINE OF HEART DOWN MY THROAT
"IN THIS WORLD, ALL PEOPLE MUST BE PART OF THE GAME."
HI, ALICE.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
!
THEY WANT TO KEEP ME IN THE DARK.
NIGHTMARE AND PETER ARE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME.
WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS TO ME?
AND I GET THE FEELING JULIUS IS, TOO.


BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I WANT ALICE TO STAY IN OUR WORLD.
IN THAT SENSE, IT'S A PROBLEM THAT SHE'S CLOSE TO YOU.
I'M SURE YOU CAN GUESS WHY.
EVEN I CAN'T BREAK THE RULES...
...MORE THAN A LITTLE.
YOU'RE THE MAN WHO STANDS CLOSEST TO THE TRUTH OF THIS WORLD.
AND IF SHE FOUND OUT THAT TRUTH..
I'M NOT SURE SHE COULD HANDLE IT.
YOU COULD RESTRICT YOUR PERMISSION SO SHE COULDN'T ENTER YOUR DOMAIN, CLOCKMAKER.
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESTRICT HER MOVEMENT.
...


I MIGHT AS WELL PLAY ALONG WHILE I'M IN IT.
BUT THIS IS A DREAM.
PETER'S NOT HELPING AT ALL.
MOVING INTO THE CASTLE WAS SUCH A WASTE
BUT FINDING MY WAY HOME IS REALLY HARD, NIGHT-MARE
NOT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
OH?
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO CALL IT A WASTE
LOOK, I'M GONNA WIN.
I'M GOING BACK HOME TO MY OLDER SISTER.
THE GAME AGAIN.
WHO CAN GUESS THE WINNER UNTIL ALL THE CARDS ARE DEALT?

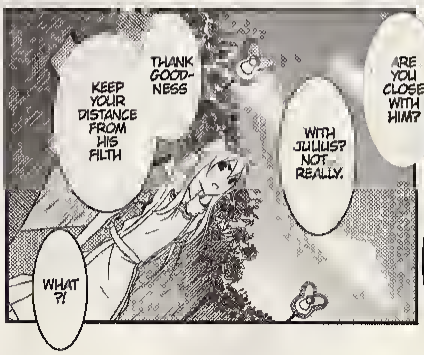
NIGHT-MARE?
HEH.
YOU LOOK GOOD
WELL... YOU HELPED WITH THAT A LITTLE
THANKS WHILE YOU'RE HERE, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
ABOUT THE CLOCKS?
...!
HE READ MY THOUGHTS AGAIN!
ER..
YEAH, ACTUALLY.
YOU'RE INTER-ESTED IN THE CLOCK-MAKER
I'M INTERESTED IN THE CLOCKS-- NOT HIM!
KEEP PLAYING THE GAME.
I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
YOU'LL LEARN THE TRUTH EVENTUALLY
?
AS USUAL, HE WON'T JUST TELL ME.
YOU'VE ALREADY ADAPTED PRETTY WELL TO OUR WORLD

HOW ARE YOU, MY PET?
DO YOU LOVE ME YET?
FOR GOD'S SAKE.
I'M GETTING REALLY SICK OF THIS.
EMBRACE THAT TRUTH...
...AND YOUR NEW LIFE COULD START.
WAIT, WHAT?
IT MEANS THAT I LOVE YOU MOST IN THE WORLD! ♡
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'M SORRY I ASKED!
PETER, LOOK.
I KNOW, MY LAMB! I KNOW IN MY HEART!
YOU'VE LOVED ME FOR AGES-- I DO LOVE THAT PART.

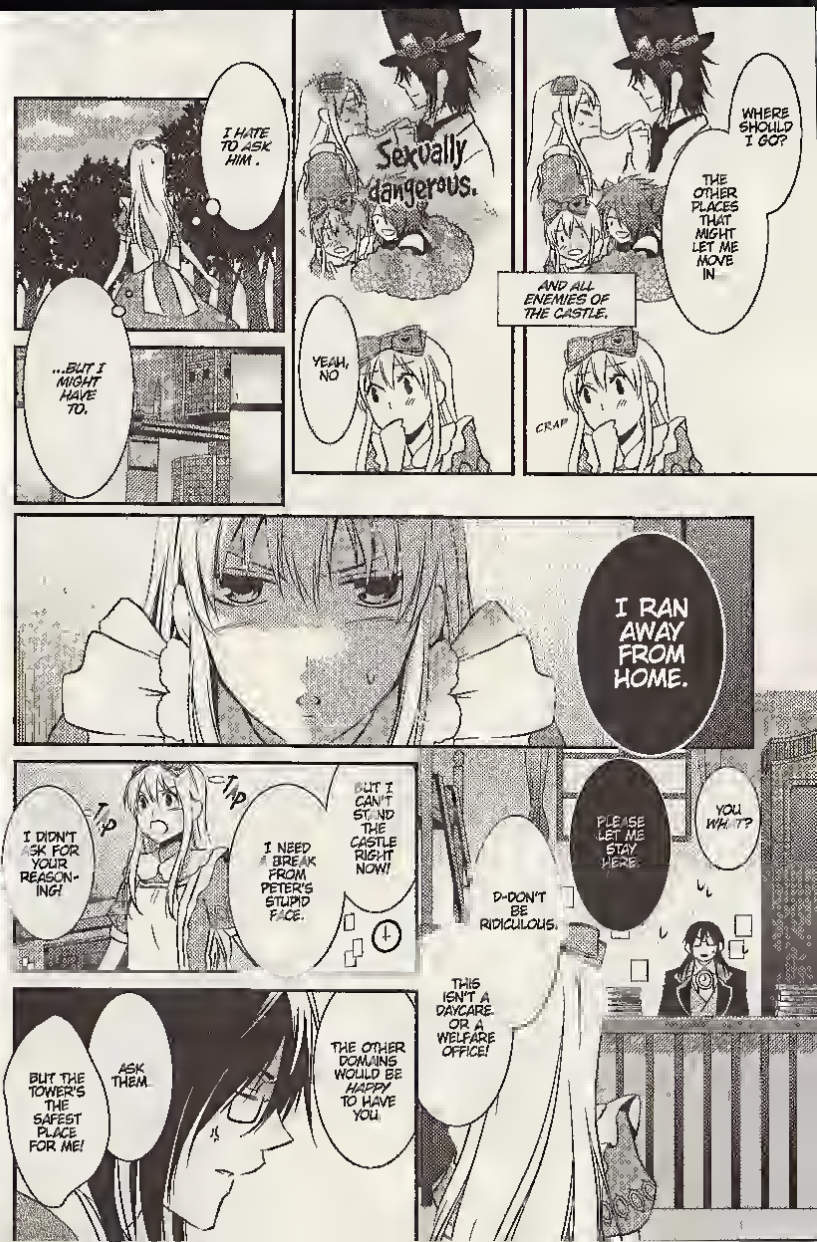

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LYING TO ME, HAVE YOU?!
OF COURSE NOT.
I NEVER LIE TO YOU
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION AT THE END
WHAT DO YOU M...
WOBBLE
...?
WHAT ...?
OPEN
I HAVE TO PLAY THIS GAME, WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT.
SHFF
.....
HE DITCHED ME.

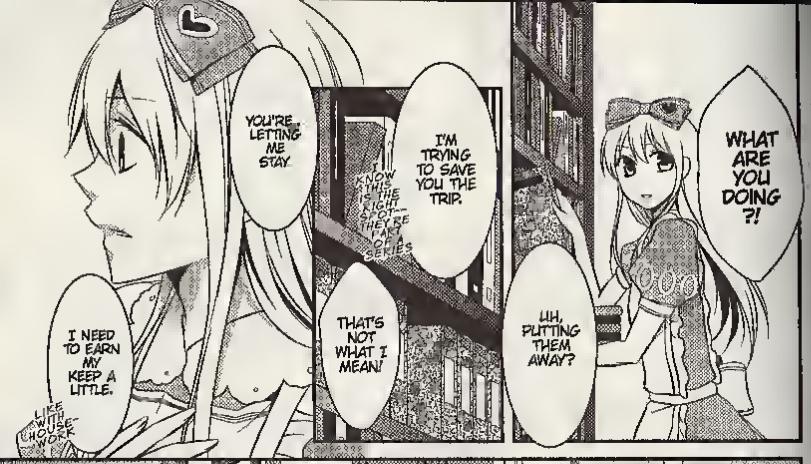
BUT THE CLOCK-MAKER ISN'T THE ONLY THREAT.
I ALSO DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO THE PEOPLE AT HATTER MANSION OR THE PARK.
THE LOT OF THEM ARE CRAWLING WITH GERMS.
SNAP
DON'T BE STUPID!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT ME GOING ANYWHERE!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF?!
YOU KIDNAPPED ME TO THIS PLACE AND NOW YOU WANNA KEEP ME LOCKED UP!
FLUSTER
ALI--
SCREW YOU!
I NEVER SHOULD'VE COME TO THE CASTLE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
NO!
DON'T COUNT ON ME COMING BACK!!
ALICE, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE!
TAP TAP TAP
SLAP!
SIGH. THAT FELT GOOD, BUT...

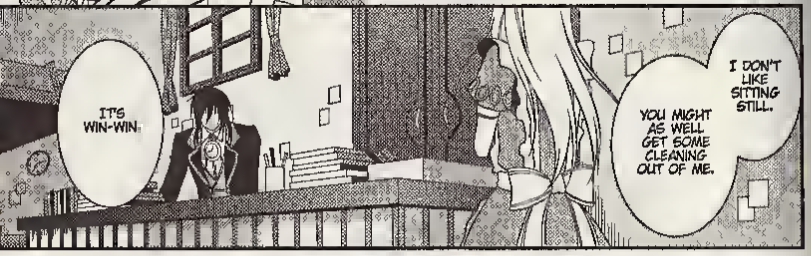
TURN
I'VE HAD BAD EXPERI-ENCES.
AND NOW I HAVE TO GO-- DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW ME.
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
?
PETER..
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN LOVE AND ALL ITS BAGGAGE. GOT IT?
WHAT A PAIN
I CARE, OF COURSE! I WORRY FOR YOUR SAFETY!
WHO CARES?
YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING THE CASTLE FREQUENTLY
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY STAR?

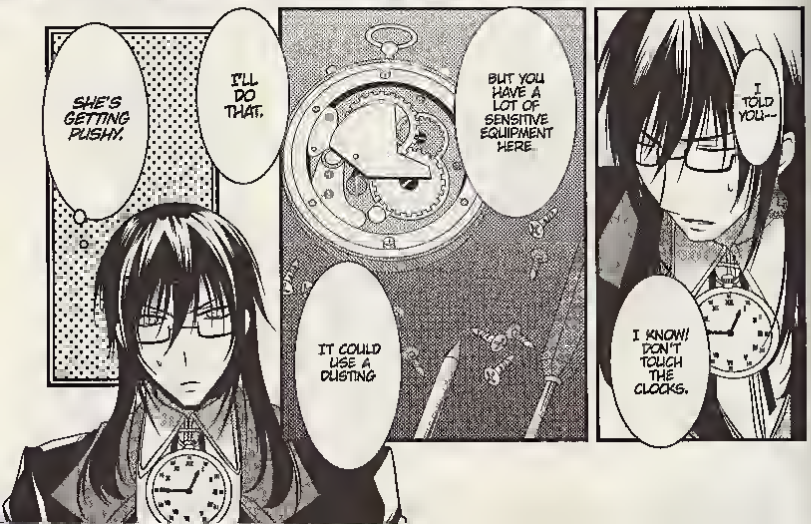

THANK GOOD-NESS
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM HIS FILTH
WHAT?!
ARE YOU CLOSE WITH HIM?
WITH JULIUS? NOT REALLY.
LAST TIME I HUNG OUT WITH JULIUS IN TOWN.
A LOT OF PLACES
SOMETIMES I GO TO THE HATTER'S OR THE PARK.

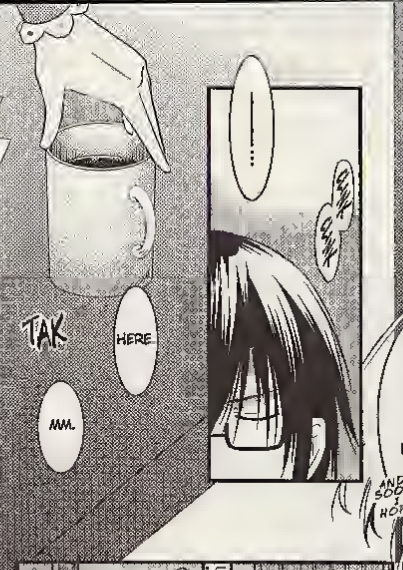
PLEASE LET HER BE JOKING
BUT THIS TOWER--
PLEASE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY NEUTRAL ZONE!
BUT THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM MOVING SOME-WHERE!
SO VISITING THEIR ENEMIES HASN'T GOTTEN ME KILLED OR ANYTHING.
I KNOW I'M JUST A GUEST OF HEART CASTLE.
I DON'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE.
I WON'T TOUCH THE CLOCKS, AND I WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK,.
.....
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU A GIANT POT OF COFFEE!
ER. FINE.
TH-THIS IS INTER-FERING WITH MY WORK!
THANK YOU, JULIUS!
HUG
!
THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE TEMPO-RARY.

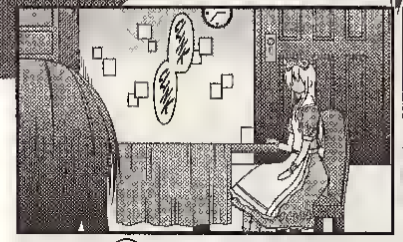

I HATE TO ASK HIM.
...BUT I MIGHT HAVE TO.
Sexually dangerous.
YEAH, NO
WHERE SHOULD I GO?
THE OTHER PLACES THAT MIGHT LET ME MOVE IN
AND ALL ENEMIES OF THE CASTLE.
CRAP
I RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
TAP
TAP
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR REASON-ING!
I NEED A BREAK FROM PETER'S STUPID FACE.
BUT I CAN'T STAND THE CASTLE RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE.
YOU WHAT?
D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
THIS ISN'T A DAYCARE OR A WELFARE OFFICE!
BUT THE TOWER'S THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ME!
ASK THEM.
THE OTHER DOMAINS WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU.

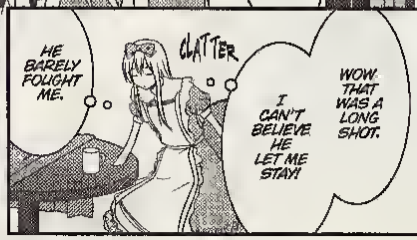

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
UH, PUTTING THEM AWAY?
I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU THE TRIP.
I KNOW THIS IS THE LIGHT SPOT— THEY'RE PART OF SERIES
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
YOU'RE LETTING ME STAY.
I NEED TO EARN MY KEEP A LITTLE.
LIKE WITH HOUSE CHORES


I DON'T LIKE SITTING STILL.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME CLEANING OUT OF ME.
IT'S WIN-WIN.


I TOLD YOU—
I KNOW! DON'T TOUCH THE CLOCKS.
BUT YOU HAVE A LOT OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT HERE.
IT COULD USE A DUSTING
I'LL DO THAT.
SHE'S GETTING PUSHY.


DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T BE HERE FOREVER.
I'LL FIND THE WAY BACK TO MY OWN WORLD EVENTUALLY.
AND SOON I HOPE
HERE
TAK
MM.



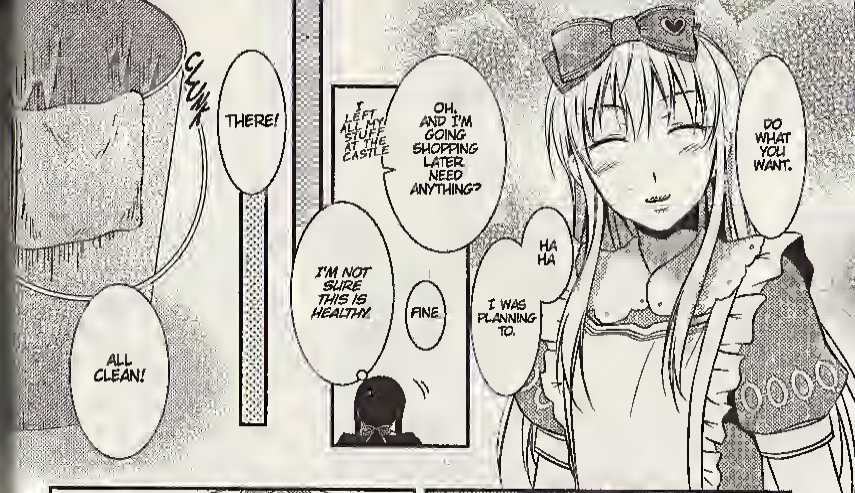

WOW. THAT WAS A LONG SHOT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE LET ME STAY!
CLATTER
HE BARELY FOUGHT ME.

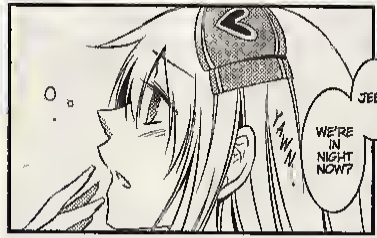
HEY, JULIUS.
WERE YOU PLANNING TO READ THESE BOOKS? THEY'RE DUSTY.
OH.
I FORGOT TO PUT THEM—

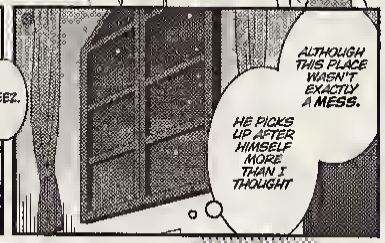
GLANCE

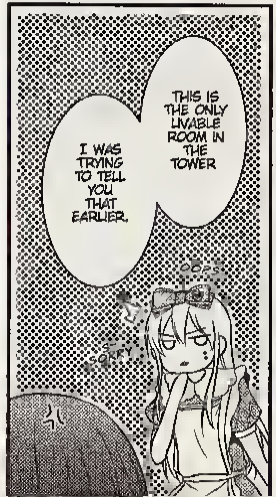
DON'T WORRY
IF I'M TIRED, I'LL KICK YOU OUT.
YEAH, HE WOULD.
BUT..
I'LL BE UP WORKING FOR A LONG TIME YET
WE CAN USE THE BED IN SHIFTS
NO WAY! I'LL SLEEP ON THE SOFA!
I'M NOT GONNA--
JUST TAKE IT.
I'M GONNA GO CHANGE.
THANKS, JULIUS. I APPRECIATE IT.
I SHOULD GO FOR IT.

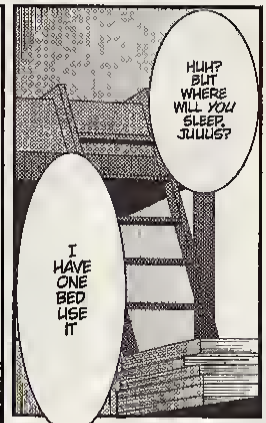
I'M SERIOUSLY INTRUDING ON JULIUS.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT.
URR
RGH.
SHE TOLD LOOKING FOR ONE
OTHER THAN THE WORKPLACE AND THE KITCHEN, THERE'S ONLY CLOSETS THAT COULDN'T FIT A HUMAN BEING AND WEIRD GEARS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO STAY, SINCE THE CLOCK TOWER IS SO HUGE, BUT HE WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT "ONE LIVABLE ROOM."
YIKES.


DO WHAT YOU WANT.
HA HA
I WAS PLANNING TO.
OH, AND I'M GOING SHOPPING LATER. NEED ANYTHING?
I LEFT ALL MY STUFF AT THE CASTLE
FINE.
I'M NOT SURE THIS IS HEALTHY.
YAWN
THERE!
ALL CLEAN!

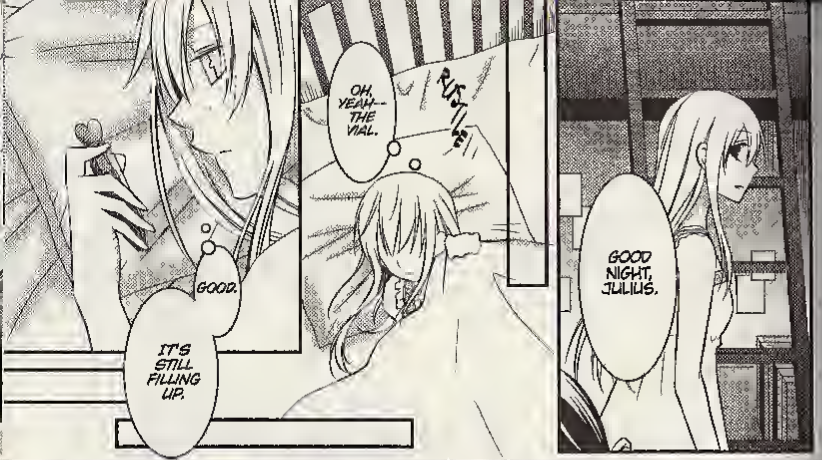

JEEZ.
WE'RE IN NIGHT NOW?

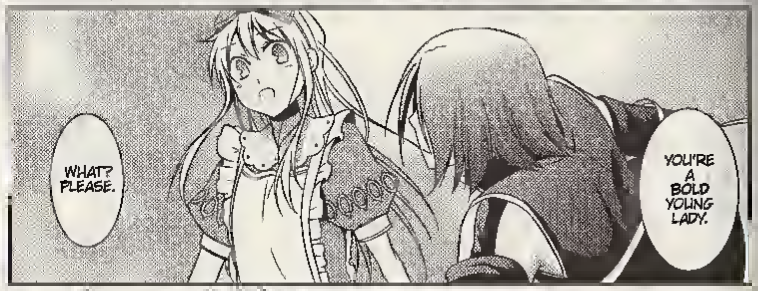

ALTHOUGH THIS PLACE WASN'T EXACTLY A MESS.
HE PICKS UP AFTER HIMSELF MORE THAN I THOUGHT

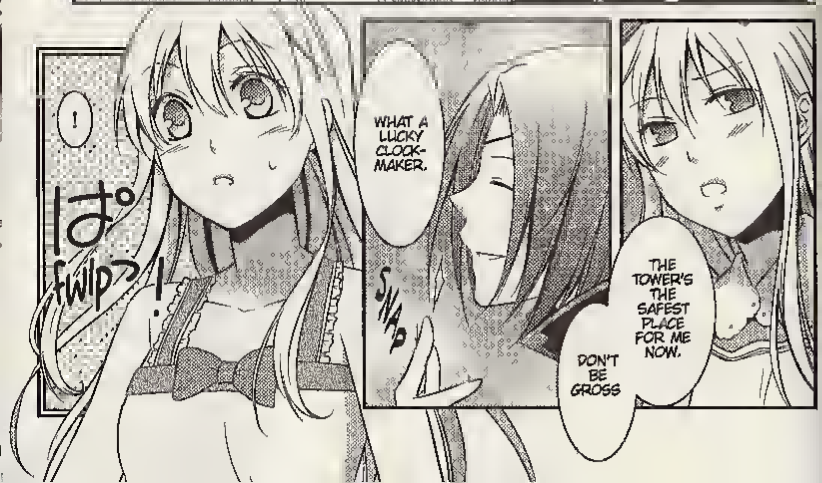

I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT EARLIER.
THIS IS THE ONLY LIVABLE ROOM IN THE TOWER

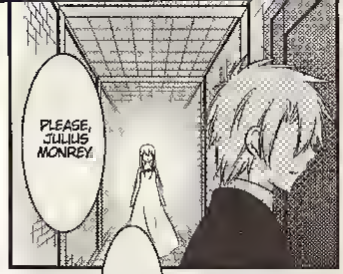

I HAVE ONE BED USE IT
HUH? BUT WHERE WILL YOU SLEEP, JULIUS?

BLINK
NIGHT TIME MAKES ME SLEEPY
BRO.
IF YOU'RE TIRED, USE THAT BED.

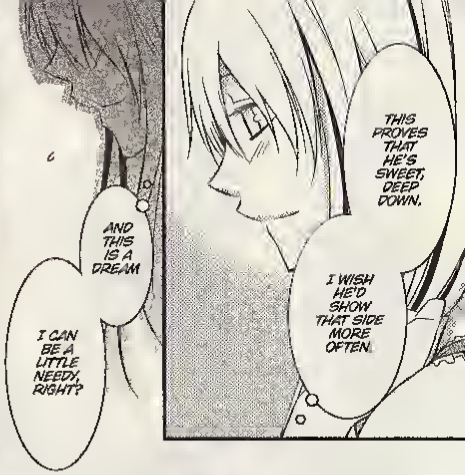

OH, YEAH-- THE VIAL.
RUSTLE
GOOD.
IT'S STILL FILLING UP.
GOOD NIGHT, JULIUS.


WHAT? PLEASE.
YOU'RE A BOLD YOUNG LADY.


!
ぱ
twip?!
WHAT A LUCKY CLOCK-MAKER.
SNAP
THE TOWER'S THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ME NOW.
DON'T BE GROSS

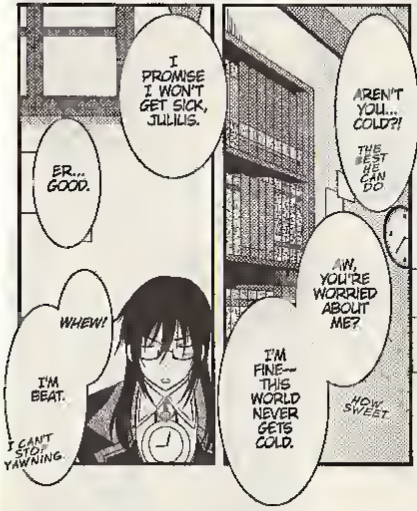

PLEASE, JULIUS MONREY.

A CUS-TOMER?
THIS PLACE IS SO BUSY

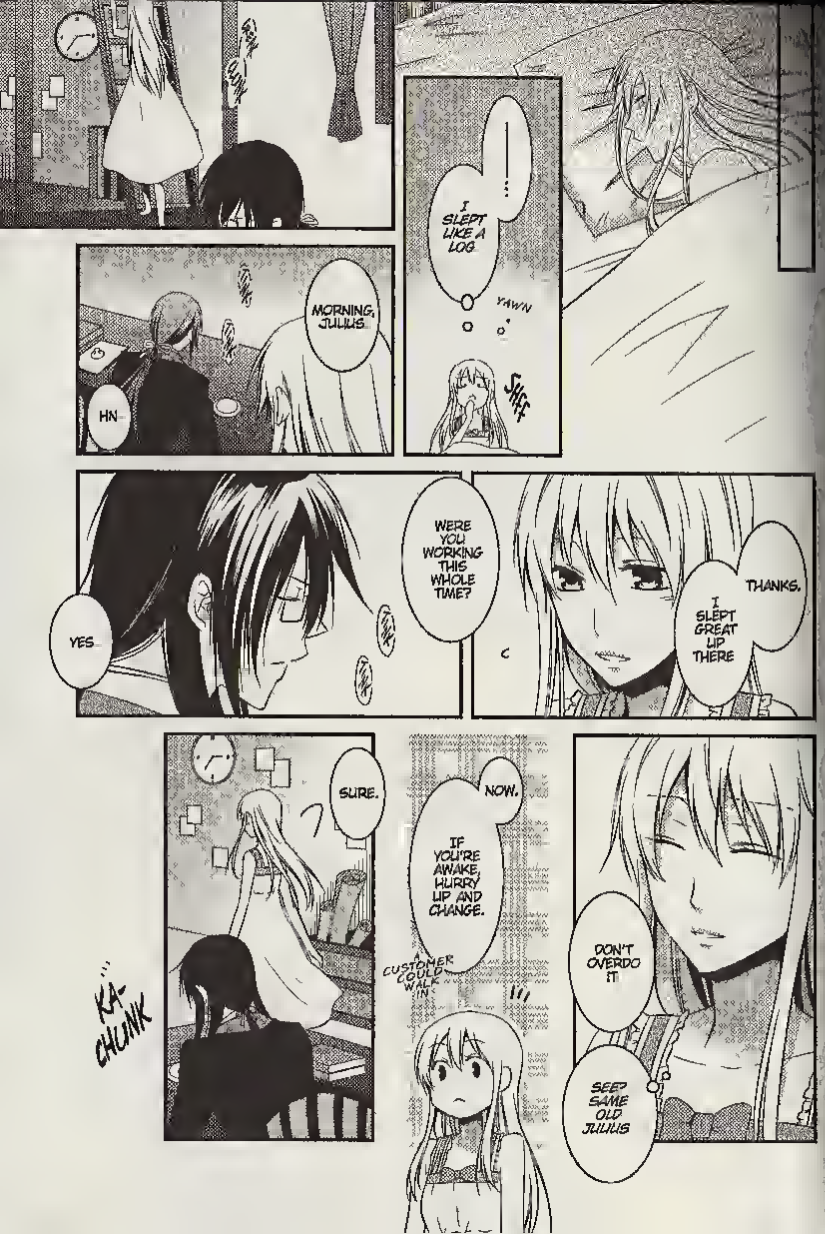

AND THIS IS A DREAM
I CAN BE A LITTLE NEEDY, RIGHT?
THIS PROVES THAT HE'S SWEET, DEEP DOWN.
I WISH HE'D SHOW THAT SIDE MORE OFTEN.

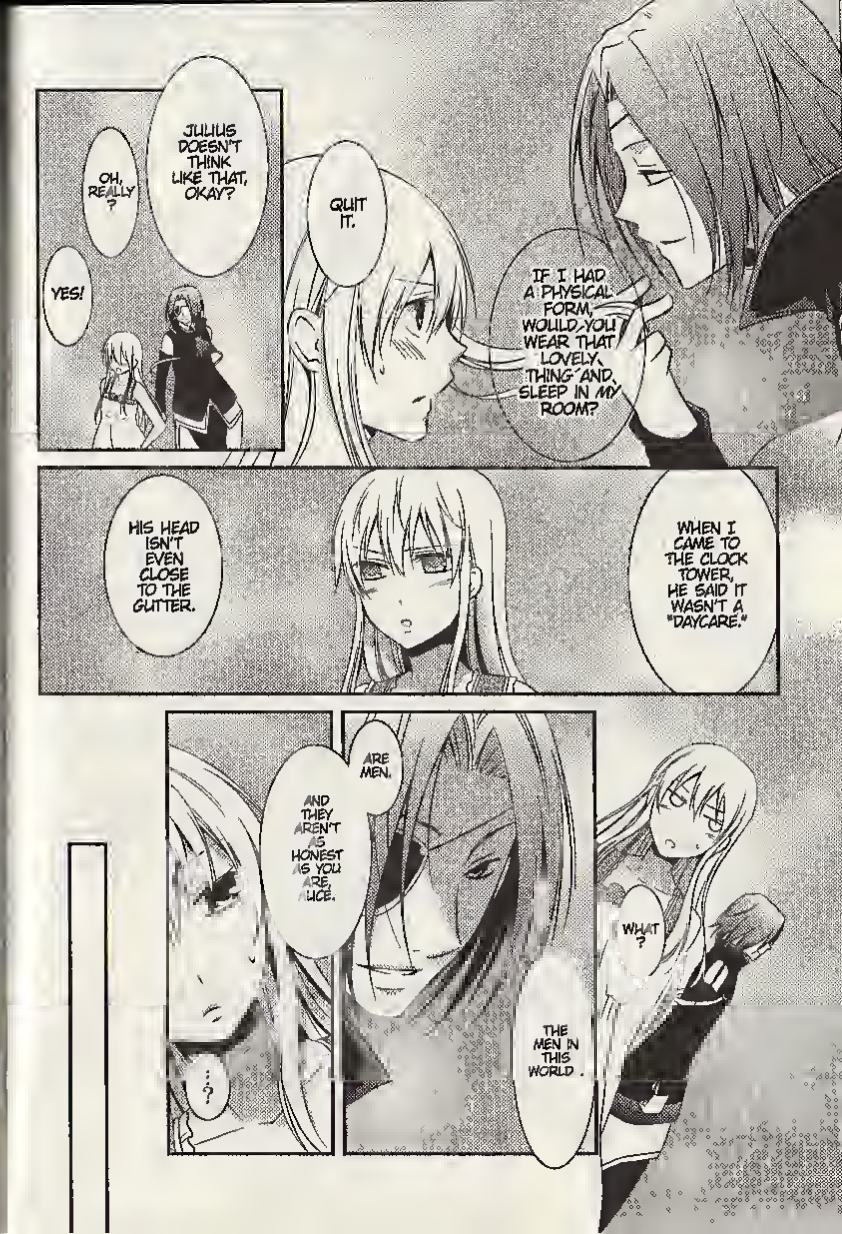
CLICK
SOMEONE BEARING MORE WORK.

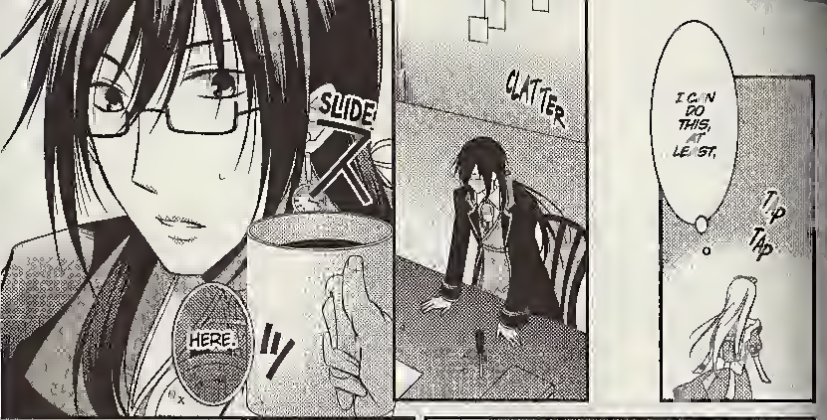
WHO WAS THAT, JULIUS?

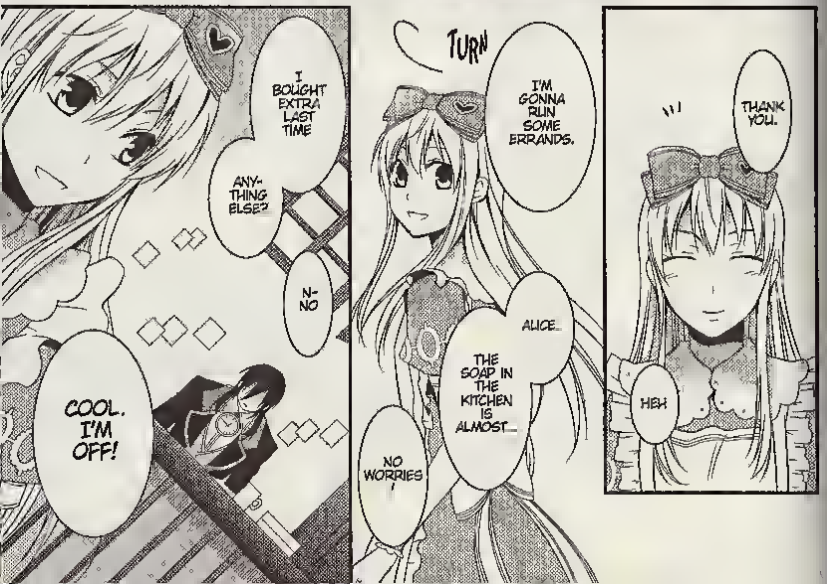

I PROMISE I WON'T GET SICK, JULIUS.
ER... GOOD.
WHEW!
I'M BEAT.
I CAN'T STOP YAWNING.
AREN'T YOU... COLD?!
THE BEST BE CAN DO
AW, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
I'M FINE-- THIS WORLD NEVER GETS COLD.
HOW SWEET

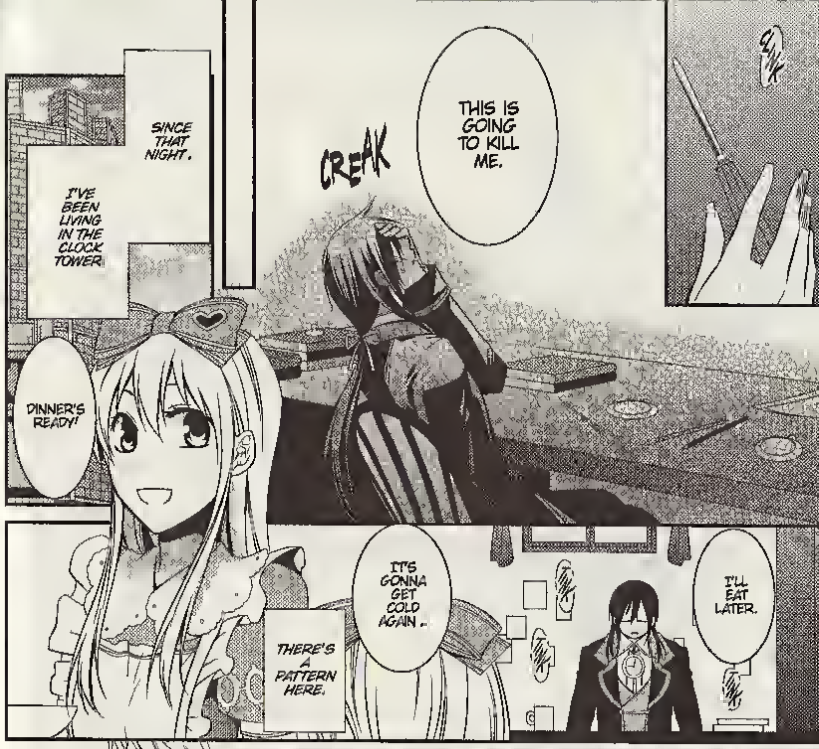
HUH?
MY NEGLIGÉE. I SLEEP IN IT.
WH-WH T IN THE WORLD RE YOU WEARING ?!

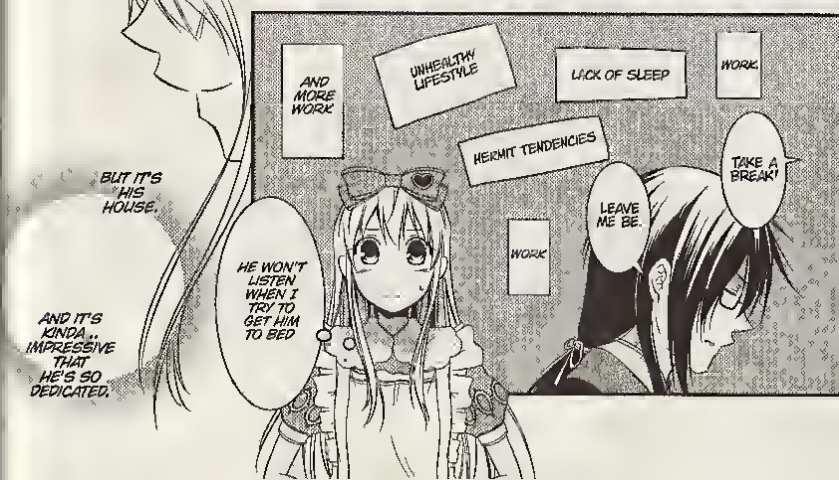

I SLEPT LIKE A LOG
YAWN
SHIFT
MORNING, JULIUS.
HN
WERE YOU WORKING THIS WHOLE TIME?
YES.
I SLEPT GREAT UP THERE
THANKS.
SURE.
KA-CHUNK
NOW.
IF YOU'RE AWAKE, HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
CUSTOMER COULD WALK IN.
DON'T OVERDO IT.
SEE? SAME OLD JULIUS


JULIUS DOESN'T THINK LIKE THAT, OKAY?
OH, REALLY?
YES!
QUIT IT.
IF I HAD A PHYSICAL FORM, WOULD YOU WEAR THAT LOVELY THING AND SLEEP IN MY ROOM?
HIS HEAD ISN'T EVEN CLOSE TO THE GUTTER.
WHEN I CAME TO THE CLOCK TOWER, HE SAID IT WASN'T A "DAYCARE."
ARE MEN.
AND THEY AREN'T AS HONEST AS YOU ARE, ALICE.
...?
WHAT?
THE MEN IN THIS WORLD.


SLIDE
HERE.
CLATTER
I CAN DO THIS, AT LEAST.
TIP TAP
I...
MM.
SIP
TAP
YOU'RE DUE FOR SOME COFFEE, RIGHT?

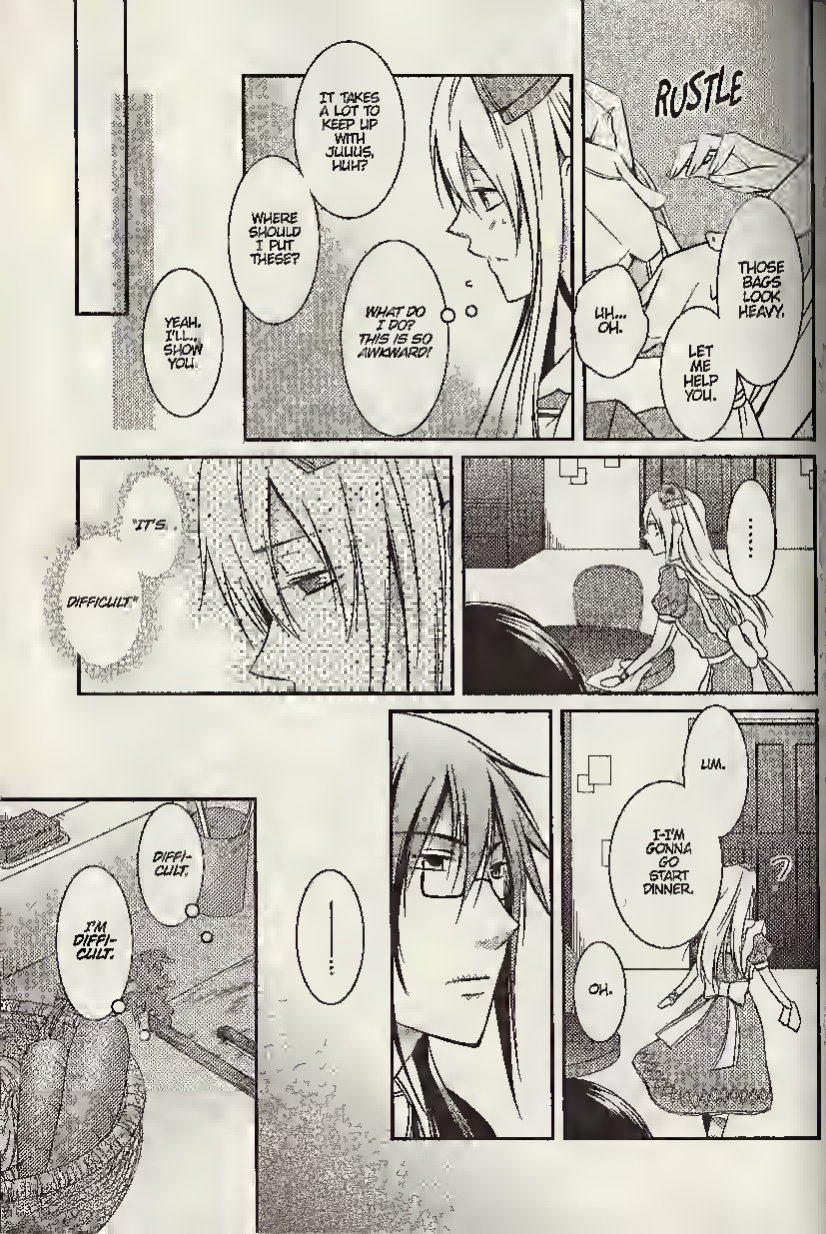

I BOUGHT EXTRA LAST TIME
ANY-THING ELSE?
N-NO
COOL. I'M OFF!
TURN
I'M GONNA RUN SOME ERRANDS.
ALICE...
THE SOAP IN THE KITCHEN IS ALMOST...
NO WORRIES
THANK YOU.
HEH

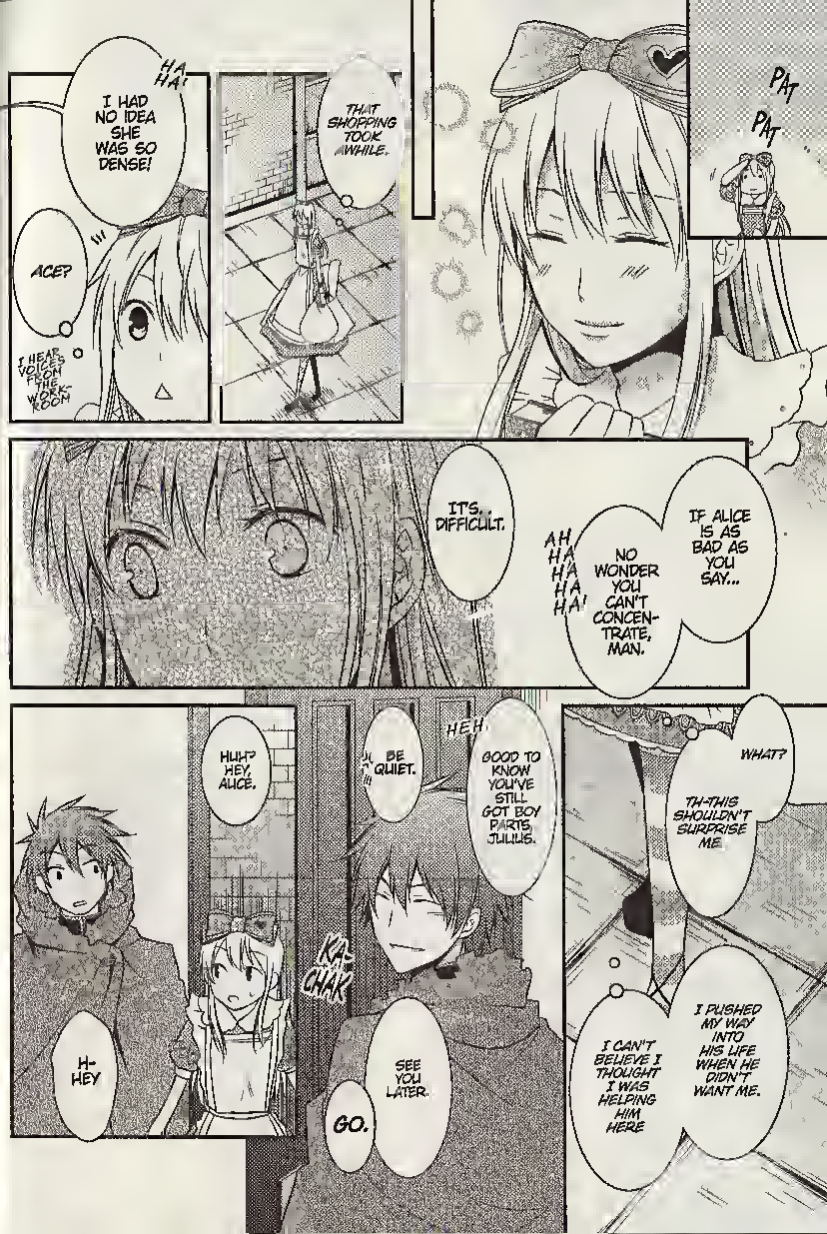

SINCE THAT NIGHT.
I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE CLOCK TOWER.
THIS IS GOING TO KILL ME.
CREAK
SWIK
DINNER'S READY!
IT'S GONNA GET COLD AGAIN.
I'LL EAT LATER.
THERE'S A PATTERN HERE.


AND MORE WORK
UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE
LACK OF SLEEP
WORK
HERMIT TENDENCIES
TAKE A BREAK!
LEAVE ME BE.
WORK
BUT IT'S HIS HOUSE.
HE WON'T LISTEN WHEN I TRY TO GET HIM TO BED
AND IT'S KINDA... IMPRESSIVE THAT HE'S SO DEDICATED.

HA HA!
DAAAMN. RELAX OR YOU'LL HURT HIS FEELINGS.
FLICK FLICK
I'M JUST STAYING HERE AWHILE! DON'T EVEN JOKE!
BY THE WAY
PETER'S BEEN A HOT MESS SINCE YOU LEFT.
NO!
IGNORE HIM.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TWO SEALED THE DEAL.
ARE YOU JULIUS'S HOUSEWIFE NOW?
CLATTER
MUNCH MUNCH
HE'S LEARNED.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT PETER.
HA HA. WHATEVER.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HELPING OUT JULIUS, THOUGH.
PLONK
WOO!
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOUR HEAD.
AND THAT'S FOR ONE.
WELL... SOMEWHAT.
AM I HELPING YOU OUT?
KA-CHUNK
I'LL GET TO WORK.
I'VE GOTTA MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

CLINK
NNGH.
I CAN'T TELL HER AND INFLICT HER EGO.
BUT SHE'S USEFUL HERE.
AND... THOUGHTFUL.
I KA-CHUNK
I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
AND GET THAT BEEF OFF THE TABLE!
IT'S NOT!
IT'S THE SAME IF YOU REHEAT IT.
I THINK I DIDN'T BURN IT TOO BAD TODAY
I WISH YOU COULD EAT THE FOOD WHEN I MAKE IT.
WHOA. I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO.
HUH? ALICE!
HEY
KA-CHAK
SORRY I'M LATE!
I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET LOST FOR TWENTY TIME PERIODS! HA HA!
CLINK

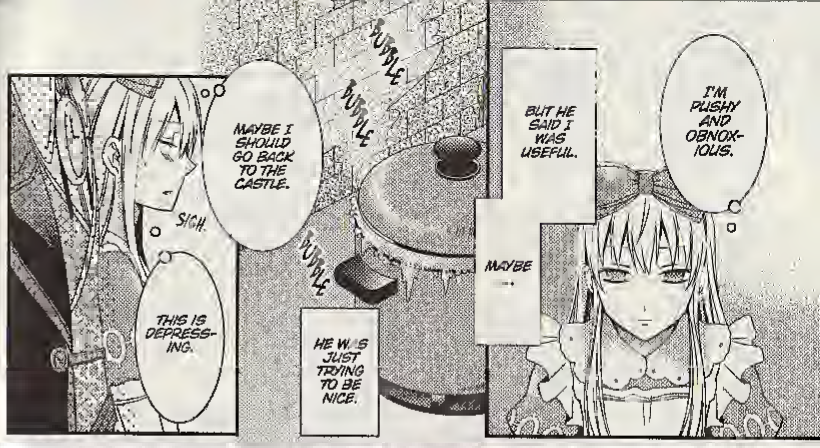

RUSTLE
THOSE BAGS LOOK HEAVY.
LET ME HELP YOU.
UH... OH.
IT TAKES A LOT TO KEEP UP WITH JULIUS, HUH?
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THESE?
WHAT DO I DO? THIS IS SO AWKWARD!
YEAH. I'LL... SHOW YOU.
"IT'S... DIFFICULT"
I-I'M GONNA GO START DINNER.
UM.
OH.
I'M DIFFI-CULT.
DIFFI-CULT.

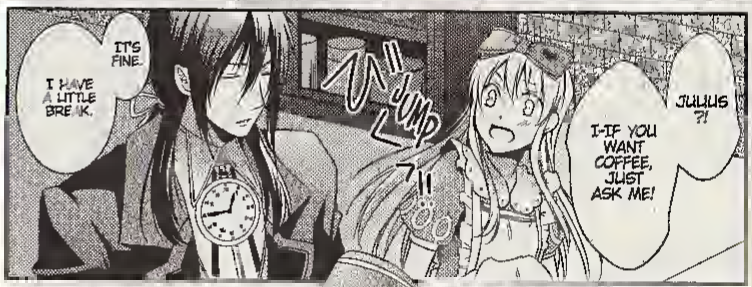

I HEAR VOICES FROM THE WORK-ROOM
ACE?
I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS SO DENSE!
HA HA!
THAT SHOPPING TOOK AWHILE.
PAT PAT
IT'S... DIFFICULT.
AH HA HA HA HA!
NO WONDER YOU CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE, MAN.
IF ALICE IS AS BAD AS YOU SAY...
HUH? HEY, ALICE.
BE QUIET.
HEH
GOOD TO KNOW YOU'VE STILL GOT BOY PARTS, JULIUS.
H-HEY
KA-CHAK
SEE YOU LATER.
GO.
WHAT?
TH-THIS SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ME.
I PUSHED MY WAY INTO HIS LIFE WHEN HE DIDN'T WANT ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT I WAS HELPING HIM HERE

DO YOU MIND?
HERE.
I DON'T NEED TWO CUPS' WORTH
HAVE ONE.

SIP
UM...
THANK YOU.

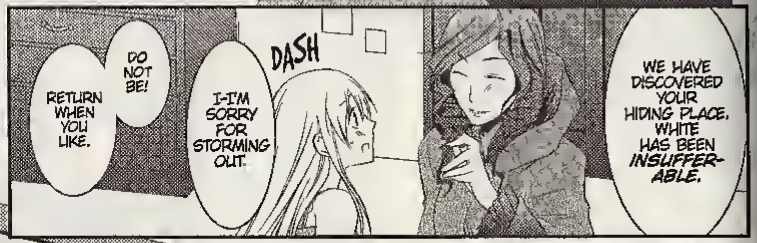
SHE SEEMED ROTHERED AGAIN
OH.
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS.
NO WONDER MY COFFEE WASN'T UP TO YOUR STANDARDS.
!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

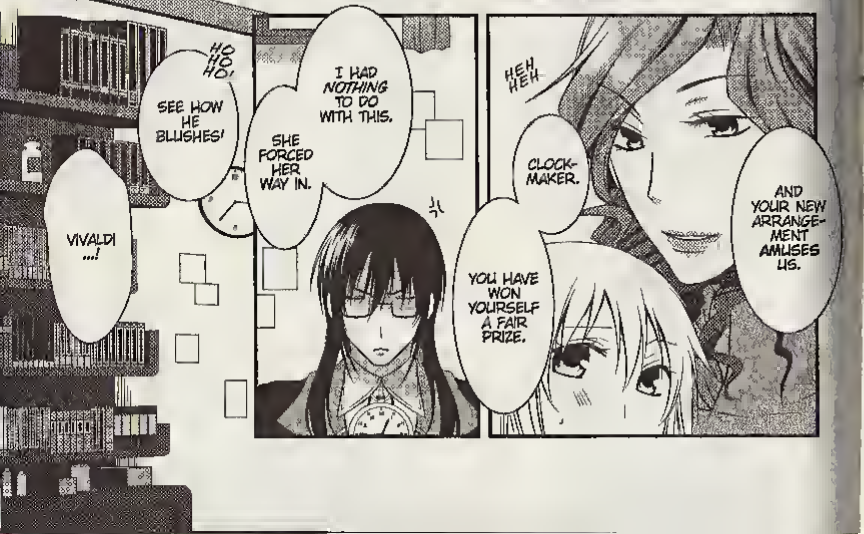

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
SIGH.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK TO THE CASTLE.
THIS IS DEPRESSING.
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NICE.
BUT HE SAID I WAS USEFUL.
MAYBE...
I'M PUSHY AND OBNOXIOUS.

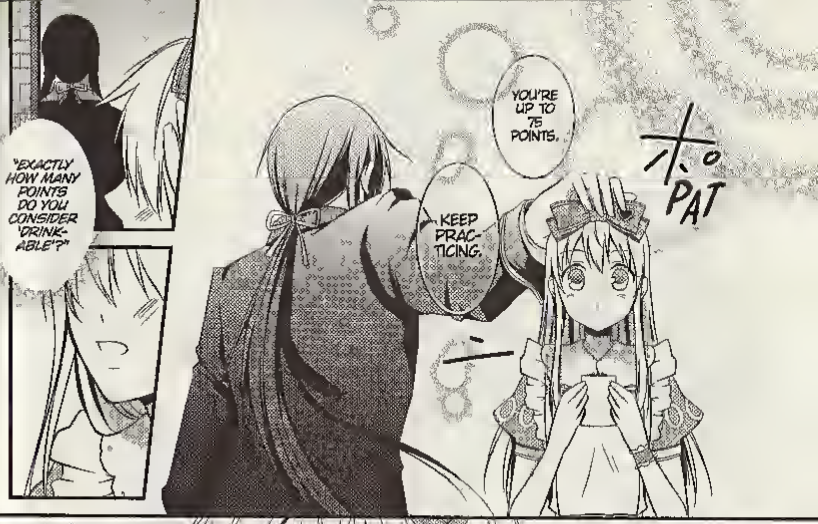

IT'S FINE.
I HAVE A LITTLE BREAK.
JUMP
JULIUS?!
I-IF YOU WANT COFFEE, JUST ASK ME!

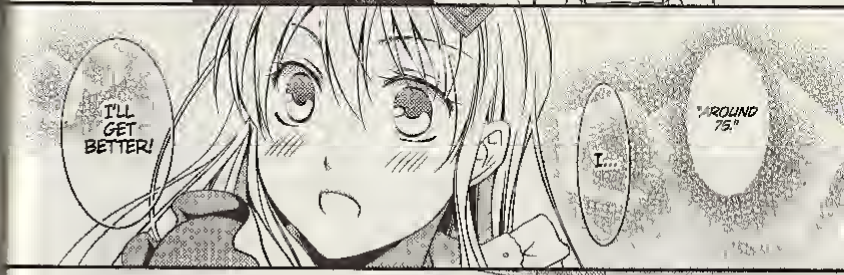
THAT'S GREAT NEWS
THIS IS MY FIRST FREE MOMENT IN A LONG TIME.
WAIT. YOU'RE FINISHED?
UNTIL THE NEXT CLIENT WALKS IN.

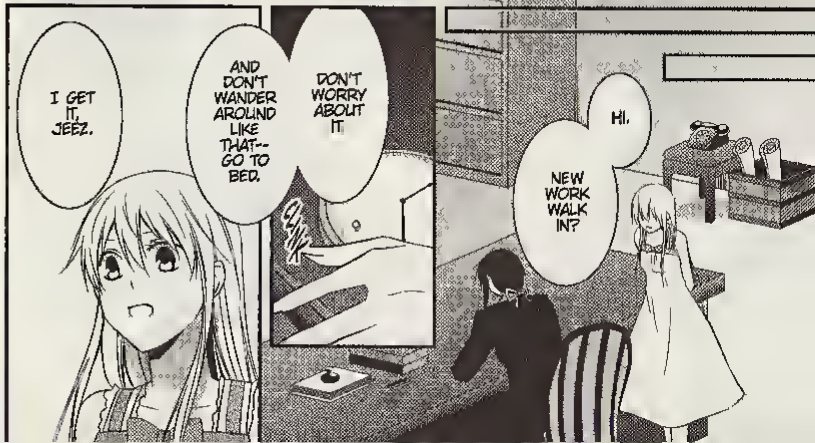
YOU AGAIN, QUEEN OF HEARTS
GRIN
OH?
GRIN
FLAP
KNOCK KNOCK
PERMIT US.
ALICE?
WHO'S THAT?
KA-CHUNK
VIVALDI!


DO NOT BE!
RETURN WHEN YOU LIKE.
DASH
I-I'M SORRY FOR STORMING OUT.
WE HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR HIDING PLACE. WHITE HAS BEEN INSUFFERABLE.

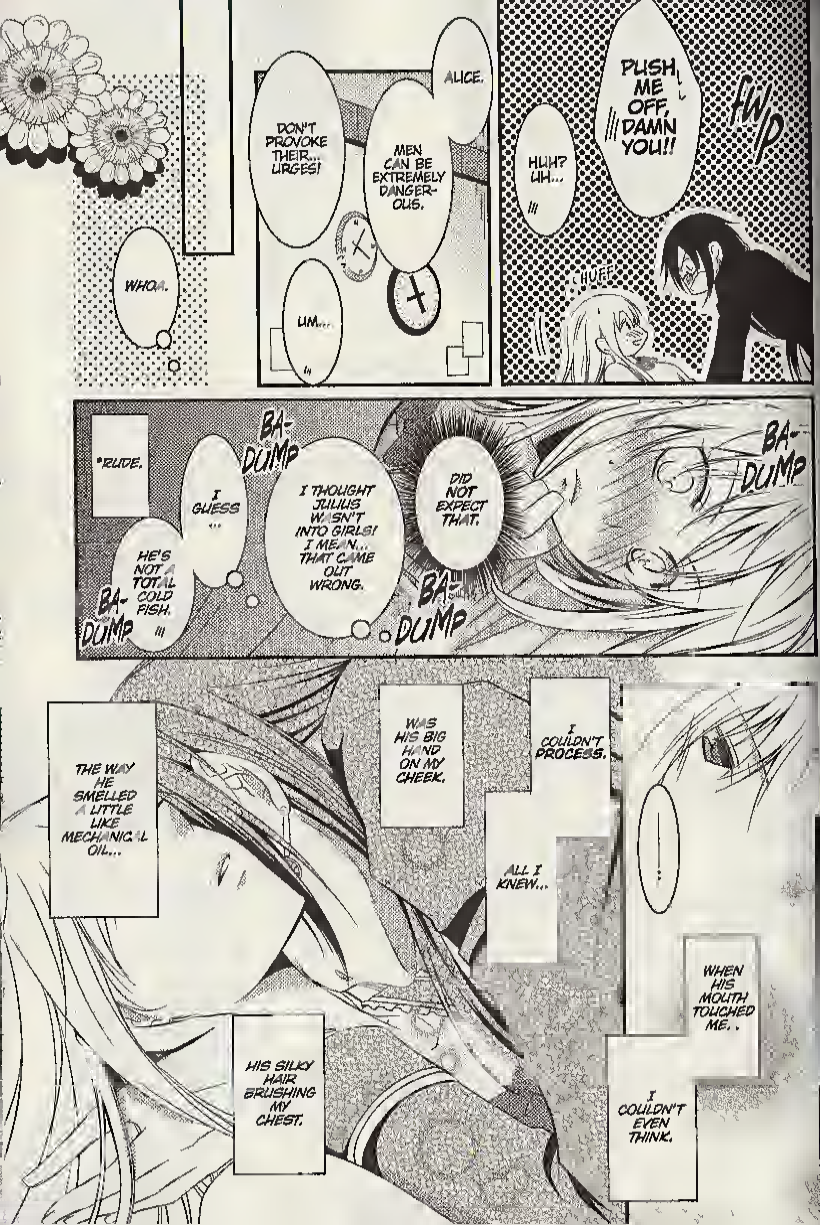

HO HO HO
SEE HOW HE BLUSHES!
VIVALDI ...!
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
SHE FORCED HER WAY IN.
HEH HEH
CLOCK-MAKER.
YOU HAVE WON YOURSELF A FAIR PRIZE.
AND YOUR NEW ARRANGE-MENT AMUSES US.


"EXACTLY HOW MANY POINTS DO YOU CONSIDER 'DRINK-ABLE'?"
YOU'RE UP TO 75 POINTS.
KEEP PRAC-TICING.
PAT


I'LL GET BETTER!
I...
"AROUND 75."


I GET IT, JEEZ.
AND DON'T WANDER AROUND LIKE THAT--GO TO BED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HI.
NEW WORK WALK IN?

PFFT!
THIS WAS BUGGING HIM?
I DON'T THINK JULIUS HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH WOMEN.
MAYBE HE'S HIS FIRST FEMALE FRIEND
NAG
A YOUNG WOMAN SHOULDN'T BE DRESSED LIKE THAT IN MUM'S ROOM!
HAVE SOME PROPRIETY!
THE QUEEN SAID IT HERSELF.
WHAT, AFTER ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE?
IT'S A PRETTY NORMAL NIGHT-GOWN.
THAT SLIP IS INDECENT.
FIDGET
LOOK AT HIM. SQUEE.
ONLY MAKES ME WANNA TEASE HIM
BUT THIS..
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
C'MON, JULIUS.
WHY'S YOUR FACE SO RED?
SQUEEZE
BLOW
AW.
YOU DON'T LIKE ME IN THIS..?
CRYER
?!
FLUSH
VIVALDI!!!
SLIP
?!
ARE WE MISTAKEN?
HAVE YOU NOT LAID YOUR HANDS ON THIS SCANTILY CLAD WOMAN?
AND NOW MY WORK HAS BUILT UP AGAIN
AGREED
GOT TEASED
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AND I ATE MY SHOE CHUCKLING WHEN I FINISH. I FINALLY WENT.
SH-SHE WOULDN'T LEAVE.
?
MORE IMPORTANTLY.
CAN YOU PLEASE WEAR SOMETHING ELSE?!
HUH?
IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.
SHE WANTS ME TO FIX A CLOCK THAT ISN'T BROKEN.
WHAT DID VIVALDI COME FOR, ANYWAY?


WHOA.
ALICE.
DON'T PROVOKE THEIR... URGES!
MEN CAN BE EXTREMELY DANGER-OUS.
UM...
HUH? UH...
PUSH ME OFF, DAMN YOU!!
FWP
HUFF
*RUDE.
I GUESS...
HE'S NOT A TOTAL COLD FISH.
BA-DUMP
I THOUGHT JULIUS WASN'T INTO GIRLS! I MEAN... THAT CAME OUT WRONG.
DID NOT EXPECT THAT.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
THE WAY HE SMELLED A LITTLE LIKE MECHANICAL OIL...
WAS HIS BIG HAND ON MY CHEEK.
I COULDN'T PROCESS.
ALL I KNEW...
WHEN HIS MOUTH TOUCHED ME...
I COULDN'T EVEN THINK.
HIS SILKY HAIR BRUSHING MY CHEST.

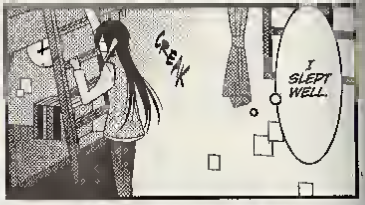
H+
WORLD'S...
H-HEY!
JULI--NNH!
TWITCH
KS
PAUSE
LIS

I'VE TOLD YOU-- I'M FINE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
YOUR BODY CAN'T TAKE THIS
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR OVER TEN TIME PERIODS!
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
JULIUS, LISTEN!
I-I THINK YOU NEED MORE SLEEP.
HE'S LOOKING AT ME WEIRD.
ER...
!
BUT YOU MUST BE TIRED.
NO! I'M FINE!
THINK ABOUT YOURSELF, JULIUS!
MAYBE I HAVE BEEN OVERDOING IT.
WELL....
POINT TAKEN.

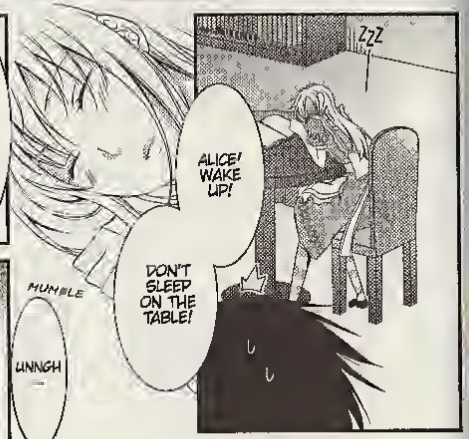
MY HEART'S POUNDING LIKE CRAZY.
BA-DUMP
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
BA-DUMP
...AND THAT I SAW MY REFLECTION IN HIS EYES.
...?!
GLANCE
KA-CHAK
I DON'T WANNA INTERRUPT.
ANOTHER CUSTOMER?
WAIT!
BUT I'M SURE I HEARD JULIUS TALKING!
I WAS ALONE
ARE YOU HALLUCINATING NOW?
WAS HE TALKING TO HIMSELF? HAS THE STRESS MADE HIM BONKERS?!
THAT'S WEIRD.
KA-CHAK
JULIUS!
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU YELLING?
HUH?! I THOUGHT I SAW.. SHADOWS

I NEED TO CLEAR MY HEAD
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY READING IN A WHILE.
H-HE WAS JUST GIVING ME A HARD TIME!!!!
IT DIDN'T MEAN ANY-THING.
AND HE HASN'T TALKED ABOUT IT
あ
BLUSH
あ

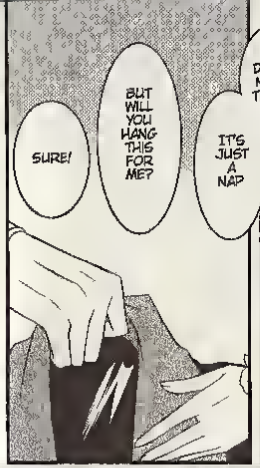
CREAK

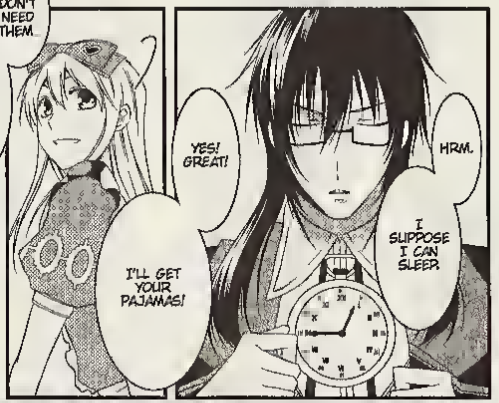

CREAK
I SLEPT WELL.

YOU WERE TIRED.


ZZZ
ALICE! WAKE UP!
DON'T SLEEP ON THE TABLE!
MUMBLE
UNNGH

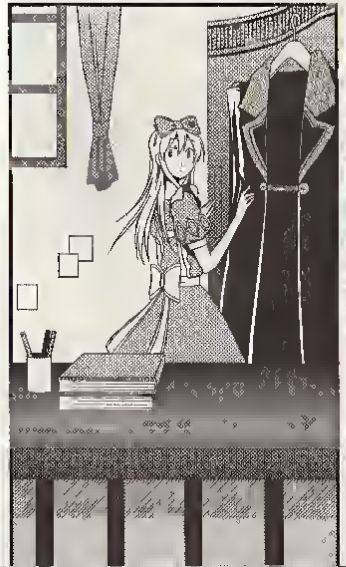
YOU'RE HOPELESS.

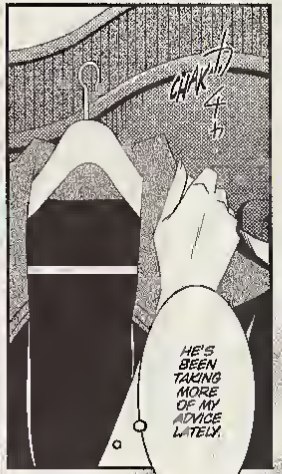

SURE!
BUT WILL YOU HANG THIS FOR ME?
IT'S JUST A NAP
I DON'T NEED THEM.


YES! GREAT!
I'LL GET YOUR PAJAMAS!
HRM.
I SUPPOSE I CAN SLEEP.

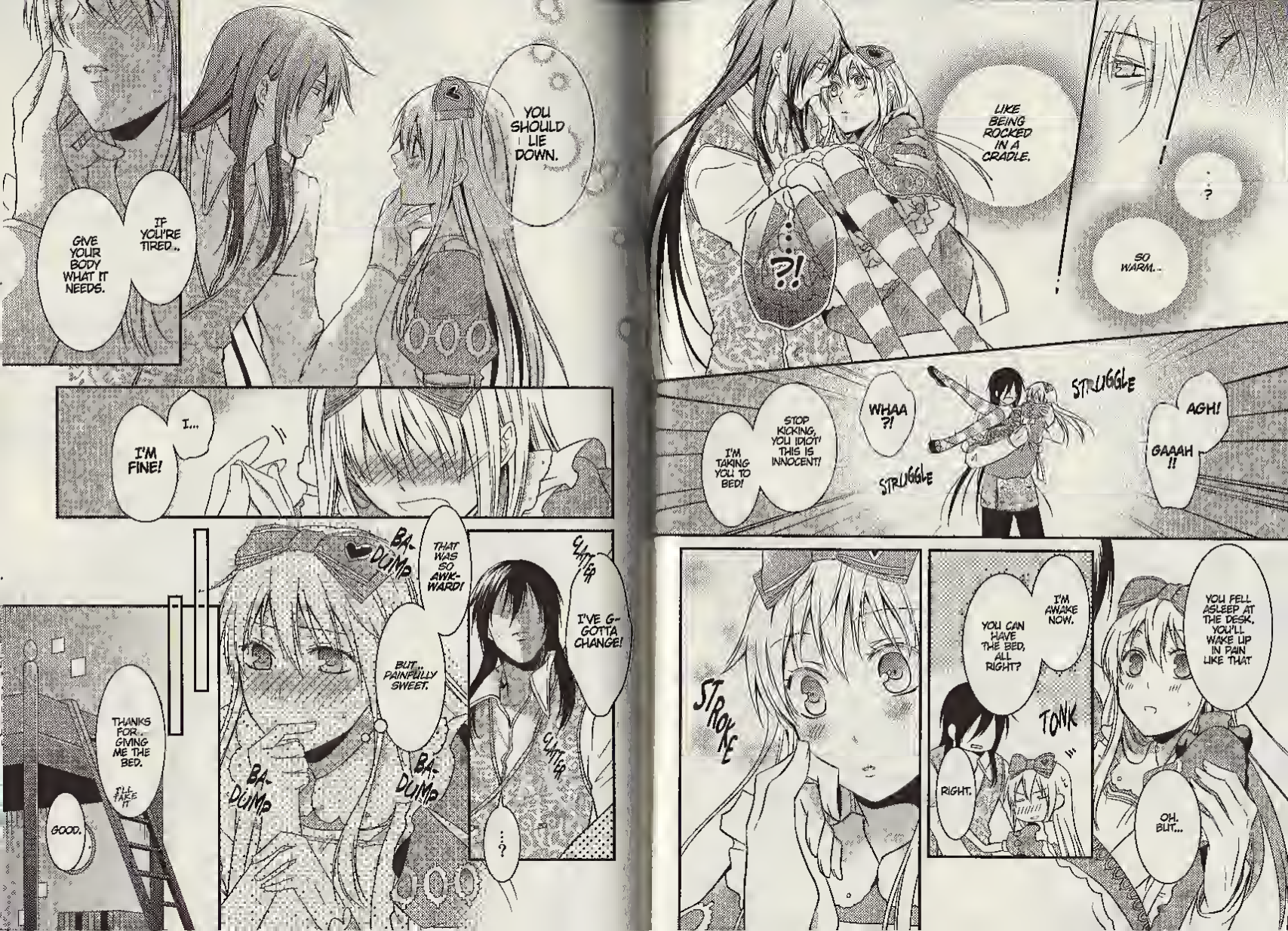
BUT SHE SOUNDED SO EARNEST...

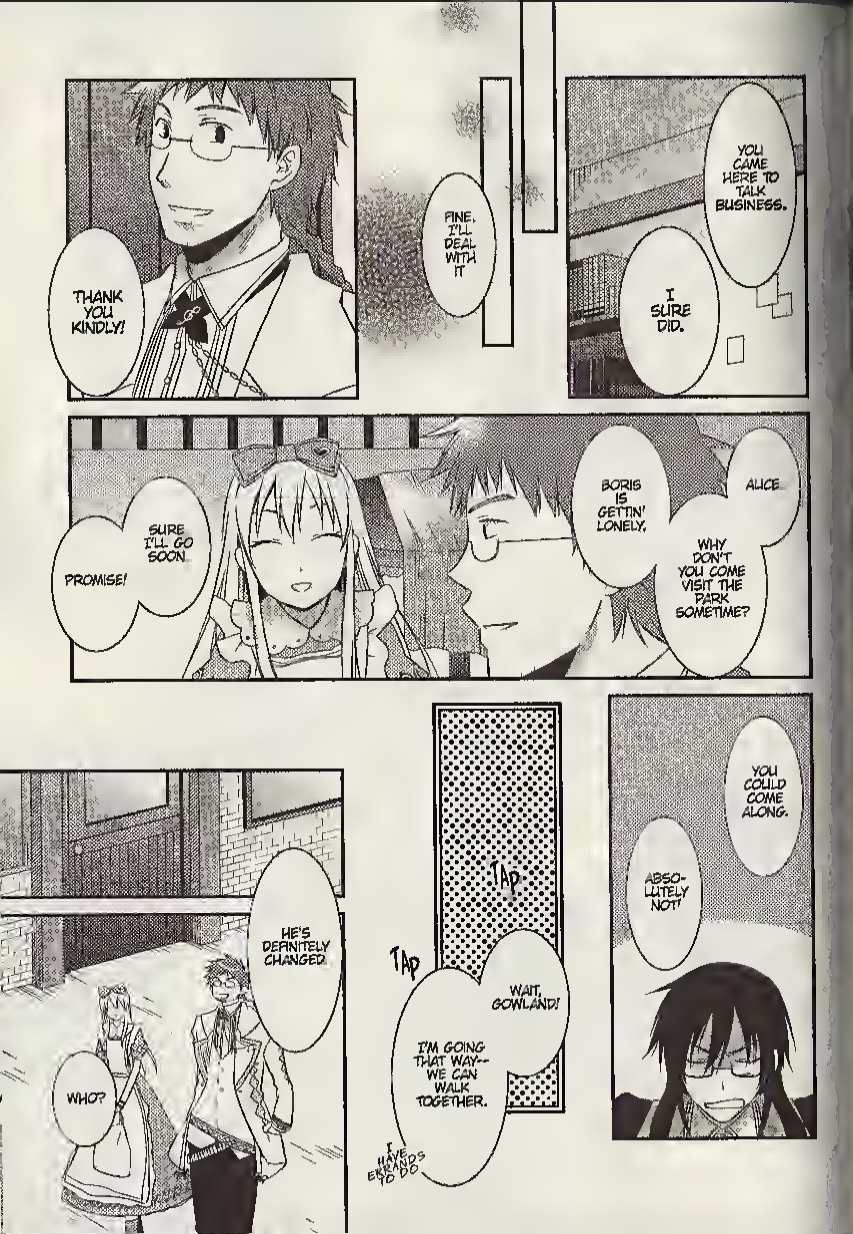
I'M GIVING IN AGAIN.

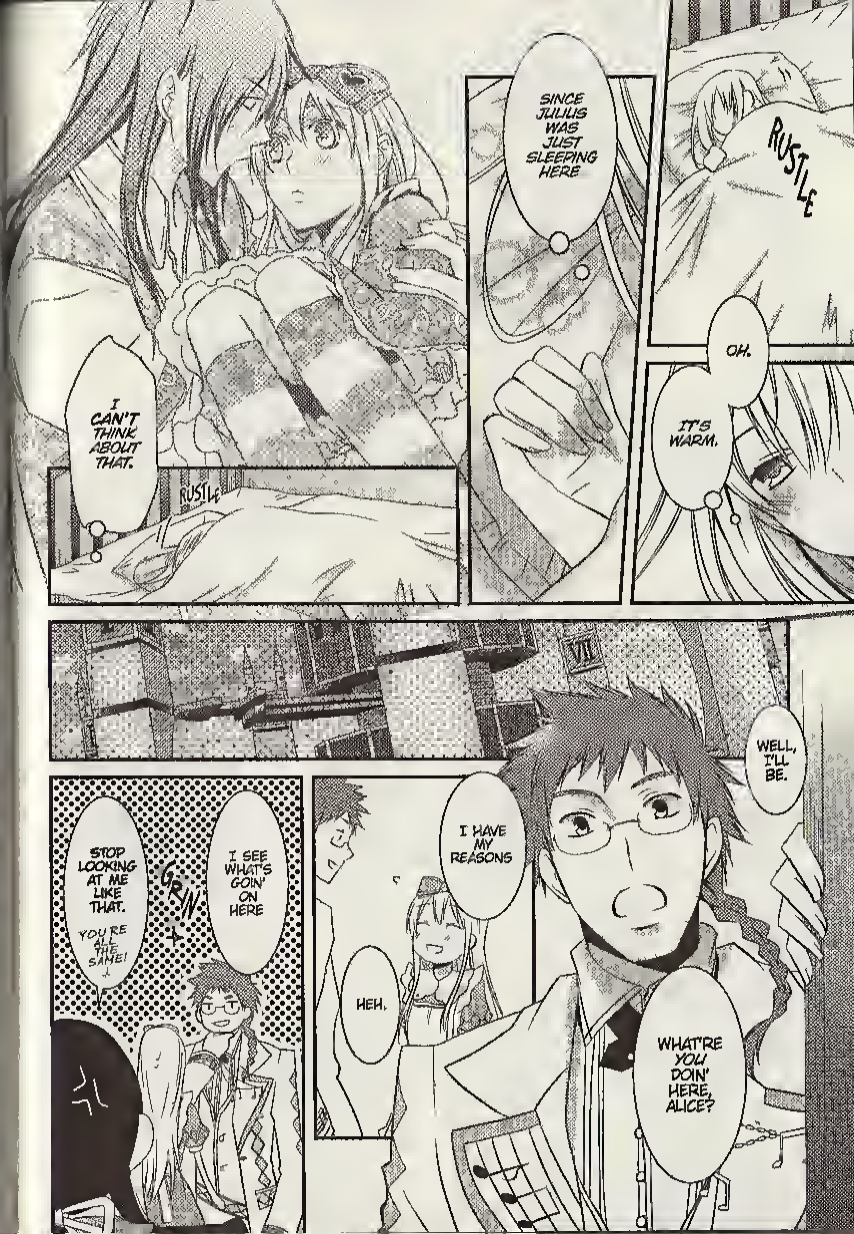



CHAK
HE'S BEEN TAKING MORE OF MY ADVICE LATELY.

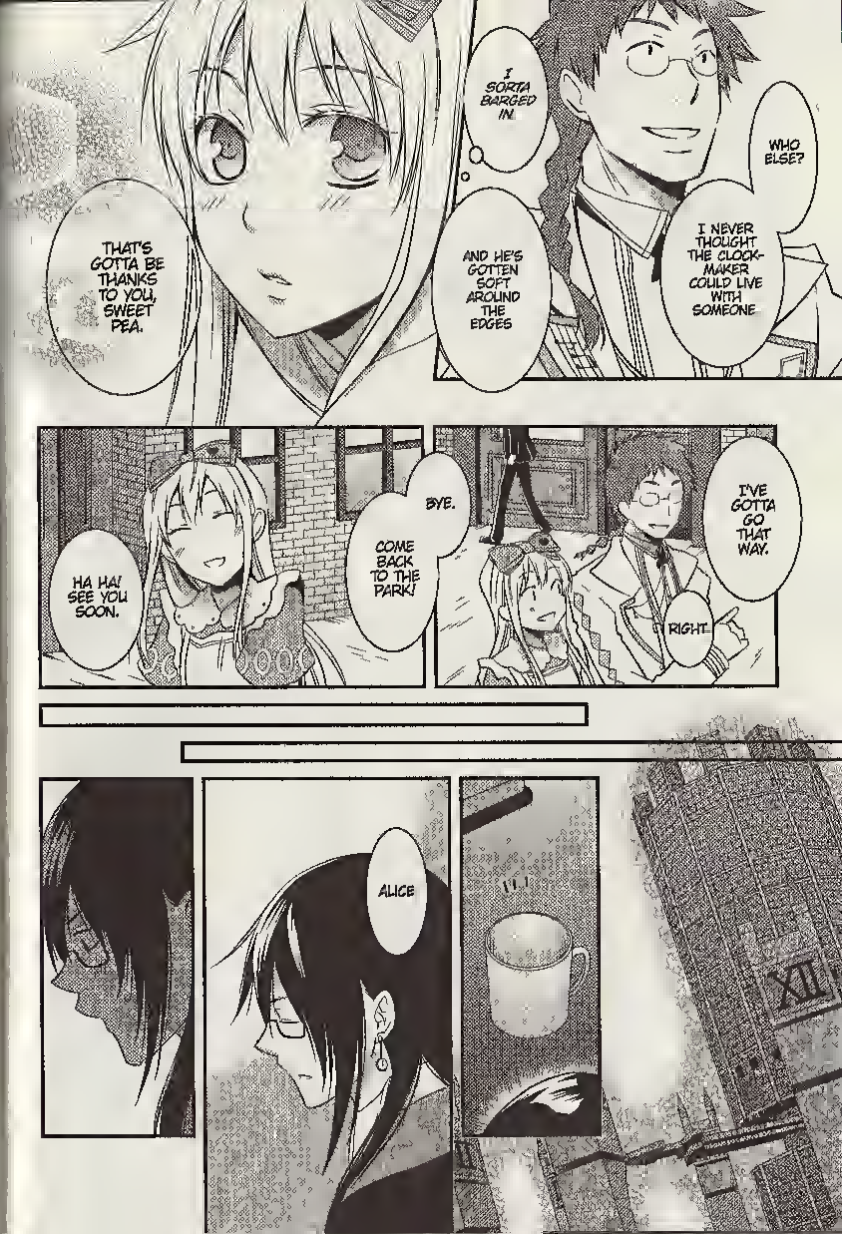
MUMBLE
I'M WEAK AGAINST HER.

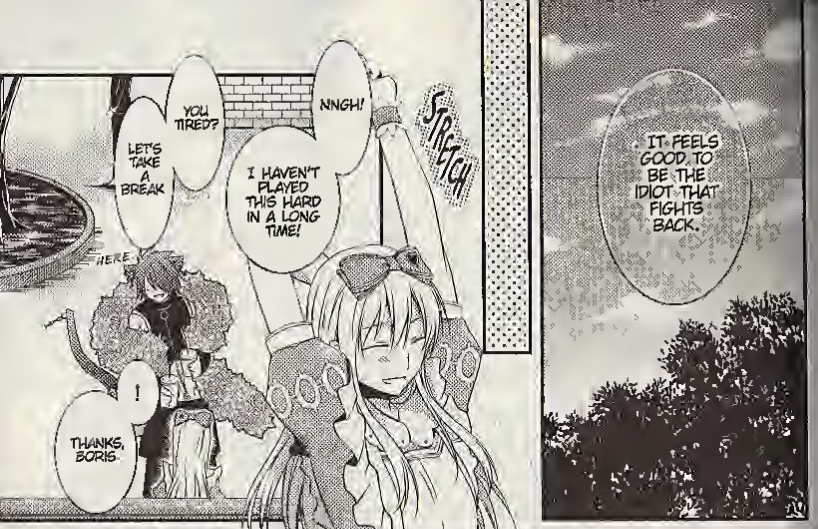

YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN.
IF YOU'RE TIRED..
GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS.
I...
I'M FINE!
LIKE BEING ROCKED IN A CRADLE.
?!
?
SO WARM..
STRUGGLE
WHAA ?!
STOP KICKING, YOU IDIOT! THIS IS INNOCENT!
I'M TAKING YOU TO BED!
STRUGGLE
AGH!
GAAAH !!
YOU FELL ASLEEP AT THE DESK. YOU'LL WAKE UP IN PAIN LIKE THAT
OH. BUT...
I'M AWAKE NOW.
YOU CAN HAVE THE BED, ALL RIGHT?
RIGHT.
TONK
STROKE
CLATTER
I'VE G-GOTTA CHANGE!
....?
CLATTER
THAT WAS SO AWK-WARD!
BUT... PAINFULLY SWEET.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
THANKS FOR... GIVING ME THE BED.
I'LL TAKE IT!
GOOD.


THANK YOU KINDLY!
FINE. I'LL DEAL WITH IT
YOU CAME HERE TO TALK BUSINESS.
I SURE DID.
PROMISE!
SURE I'LL GO SOON.
BORIS IS GETTIN' LONELY.
ALICE...
WHY DON'T YOU COME VISIT THE PARK SOMETIME?
WHO?
HE'S DEFINITELY CHANGED.
TAP
TAP
I'M GOING THAT WAY-- WE CAN WALK TOGETHER.
WAIT, GOWLAND!
I HAVE ERRANDS TO DO
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
YOU COULD COME ALONG.


I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT.
RUSTLE
SINCE JULIUS WAS JUST SLEEPING HERE
RUSTLE
OH.
IT'S WARM.
VII
STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE ALL THE SAME!
GRIN
I SEE WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE
I HAVE MY REASONS
HEH.
WELL, I'LL BE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE, ALICE?

I SAAAW THAT. ♥
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S VISITING THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
NO. SHE'S VISITING THE PARK.
TAP
ICE ISN'T HERE?
TAP
DAMN YOU, ICE.
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
SOMEBODY COULD STEAL HER FROM YOU, JULIUS.
THE AMUSEMENT PARK, HUH?
I WONDER IF SHE'S HAVING FUN WITH THAT CAT.
HM...
HM...
YOU SHOULD'VE GONE WITH HER.
I HAVE WORK, AS ALWAYS.


I SORTA BARGED IN.
WHO ELSE?
I NEVER THOUGHT THE CLOCK-MAKER COULD LIVE WITH SOMEONE
AND HE'S GOTTEN SOFT AROUND THE EDGES
THAT'S GOTTA BE THANKS TO YOU, SWEET PEA.
HA HA! SEE YOU SOON.
COME BACK TO THE PARK!
BYE.
I'VE GOTTA GO THAT WAY.
RIGHT.
ALICE
XII

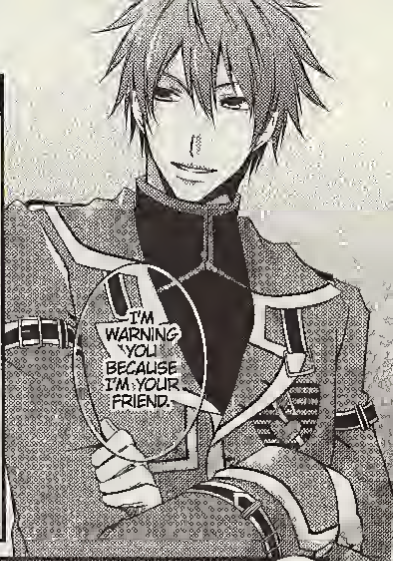

STRETCH
NNGH!
I HAVEN'T PLAYED THIS HARD IN A LONG TIME!
YOU TIRED?
LET'S TAKE A BREAK
HERE
THANKS, BORIS.
IT FEELS GOOD TO BE THE IDIOT THAT FIGHTS BACK.

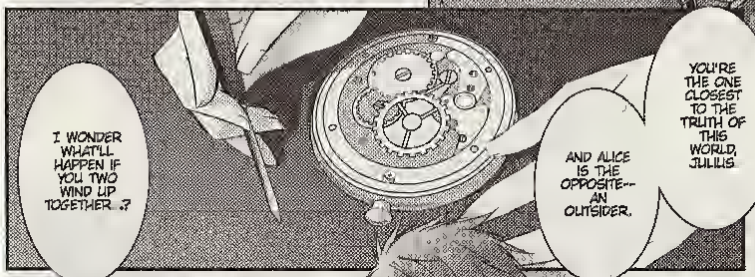
HUH?
TOTALLY.
THIS PLACE IS KILLER, ISN'T IT?

HUNH
SURE
I MEAN, THEIR FACES ARE A LITTLE BLURRY.
BUT THEY'RE STILL DIFFERENT UP CLOSE.
DAMN, ALICE
YOU CAN TELL FACELESS APART
I GUESS A NEW GUY'S WORKING THERE NOW

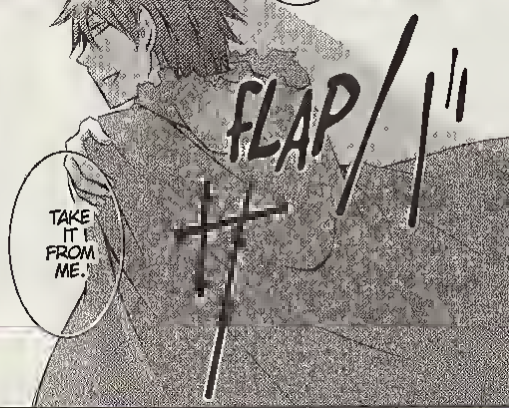
DROP IT, ACE.
HA HA!
BUT IT'S FUN TO WATCH YOU TWO.

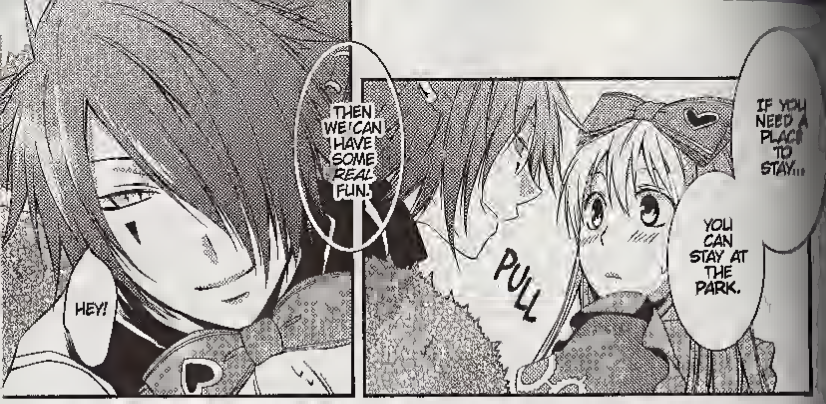
I'M NOT SURE I WANT LIFE ADVICE FROM YOU.
OUCH THAT'S COLD!

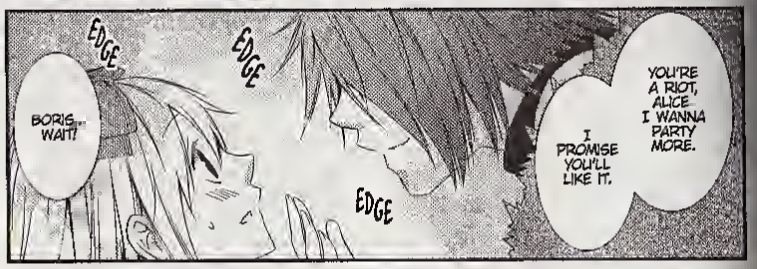

I'M WARNING YOU BECAUSE I'M YOUR FRIEND.


I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU TWO WIND UP TOGETHER...?
AND ALICE IS THE OPPOSITE-- AN OUTSIDER.
YOU'RE THE ONE CLOSEST TO THE TRUTH OF THIS WORLD, JULIUS.

GRIN
SOME-TIMES...


FLAP
TAKE IT FROM ME.


IF YOU NEED A PLACE TO STAY...
YOU CAN STAY AT THE PARK.
PULL
THEN WE CAN HAVE SOME REAL FUN.
HEY!


YOU'RE A RIOT, ALICE I WANNA PARTY MORE.
I PROMISE YOU'LL LIKE IT.
EDGE
EDGE
EDGE
BORIS... WAIT!

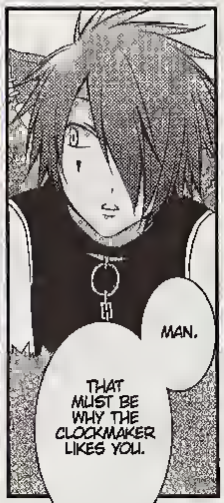
YOU ALREADY TOLD ME THAT.
BUT YOU DIDN'T EXPLAIN WHY!
BUT HE'S TROUBLE, ALICE.
WHOA.
WHY? DO YOU WANT THE CLOCK-MAKER?
HUH?
I...
WAIT.
YOU'RE WITH HIM, AND YOU DON'T KNOW?
HEH

TONK
BUT
CAN YOU SHOW A LITTLE MORE RESPECT?

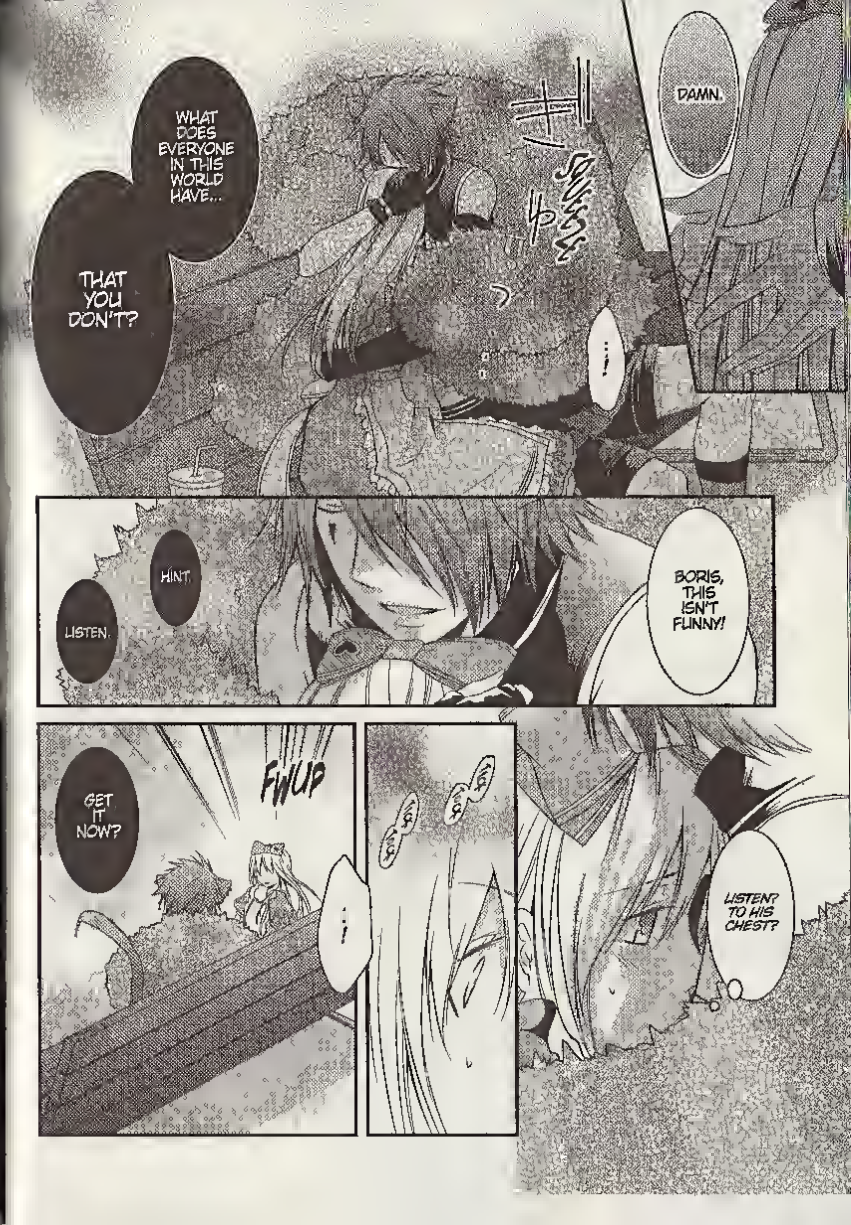
THERE WAS A GUNFIGHT HERE RECENTLY.
I GUESS THE OLD FACELESS GUY DIED AND GOT REPLACED.
AT THAT BOOTH
IF SOMEONE DIES, THEY'RE JUST REPLACED
THEY DON'T REALLY VALUE LIFE IN THIS WORLD.

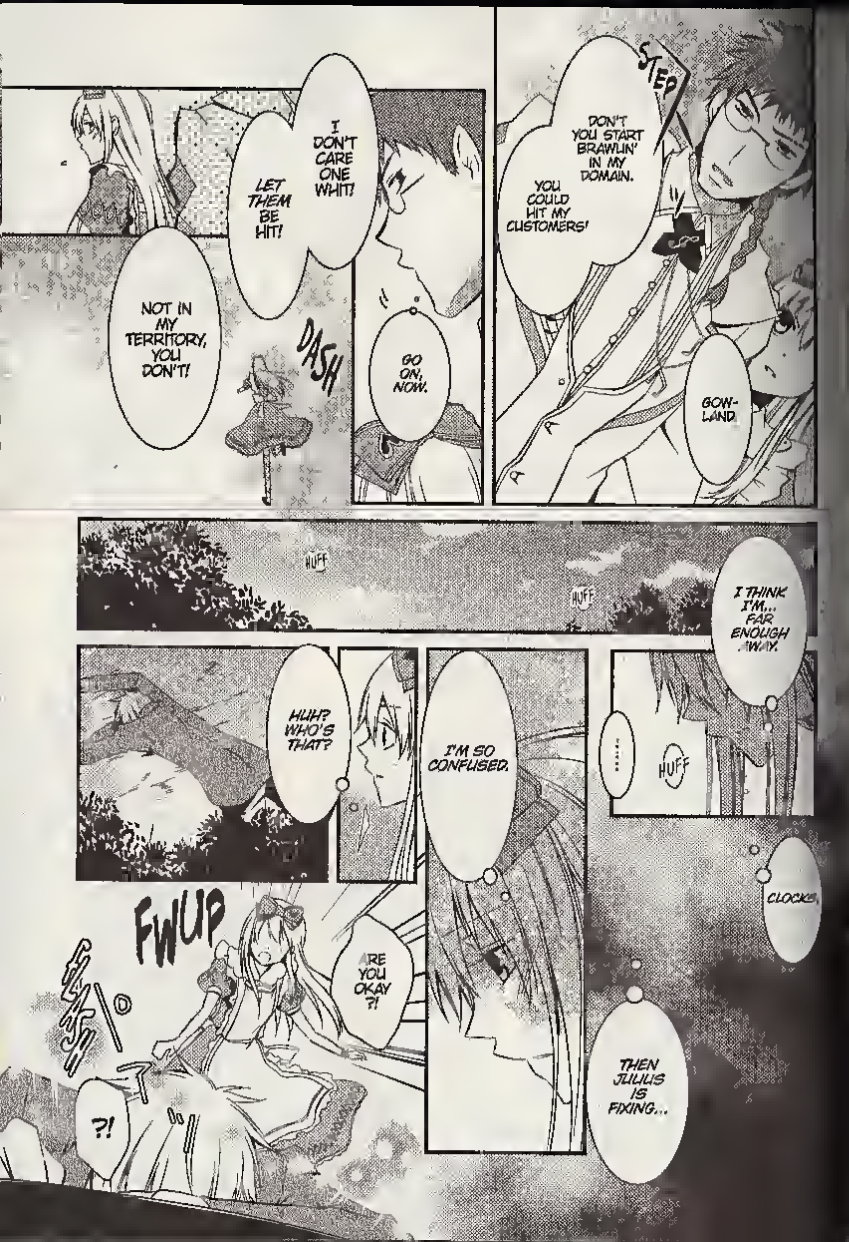
IT'S SAD TO LOSE A LIFE.
THEY'RE NOT THE SAME PERSON.
EVEN IF SOMEONE ELSE FILLS THE VOID LEFT BY SOMEONE...

HEH
HEH
UH, I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE SHARING A ROOM.
I'M JUST A HOUSE-GUEST!
L-LIKES ME?!
WE'RE NOT... MAKING OUT OR ANYTHING!
SHUT UP!


MAN.
THAT MUST BE WHY THE CLOCKMAKER LIKES YOU.

IT'S THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CLOCK-MAKER'S CLOCKS.
AND...
THAT'S THE SOUND OF MY HEART.
...LL ROLE-HOLDERS ND FACELESS H..VE CLOCKS IN OUR CHESTS.
IF WE DIE, OUR CLOCK BREAKS. THEN THE CLOCKMAKER CAN FIX IT.
TH..T BRINGS US BACK AS A NEW PERSON.
AND WE DO THAT... OVER AND OVER.
THEY C..LL HIM "THE UNDER-TAKER."
BUT NOT EVERYBODY LIKES THE SYSTEM, ALICE.
TH..T'S WHY SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE GRUDGES AGAINST THE CLOCK-MAKER.
YOU DON'T H..VE TO GO BACK THERE. FORGET THE TOWER AND--
DID I SCARE YOU?
BANG!

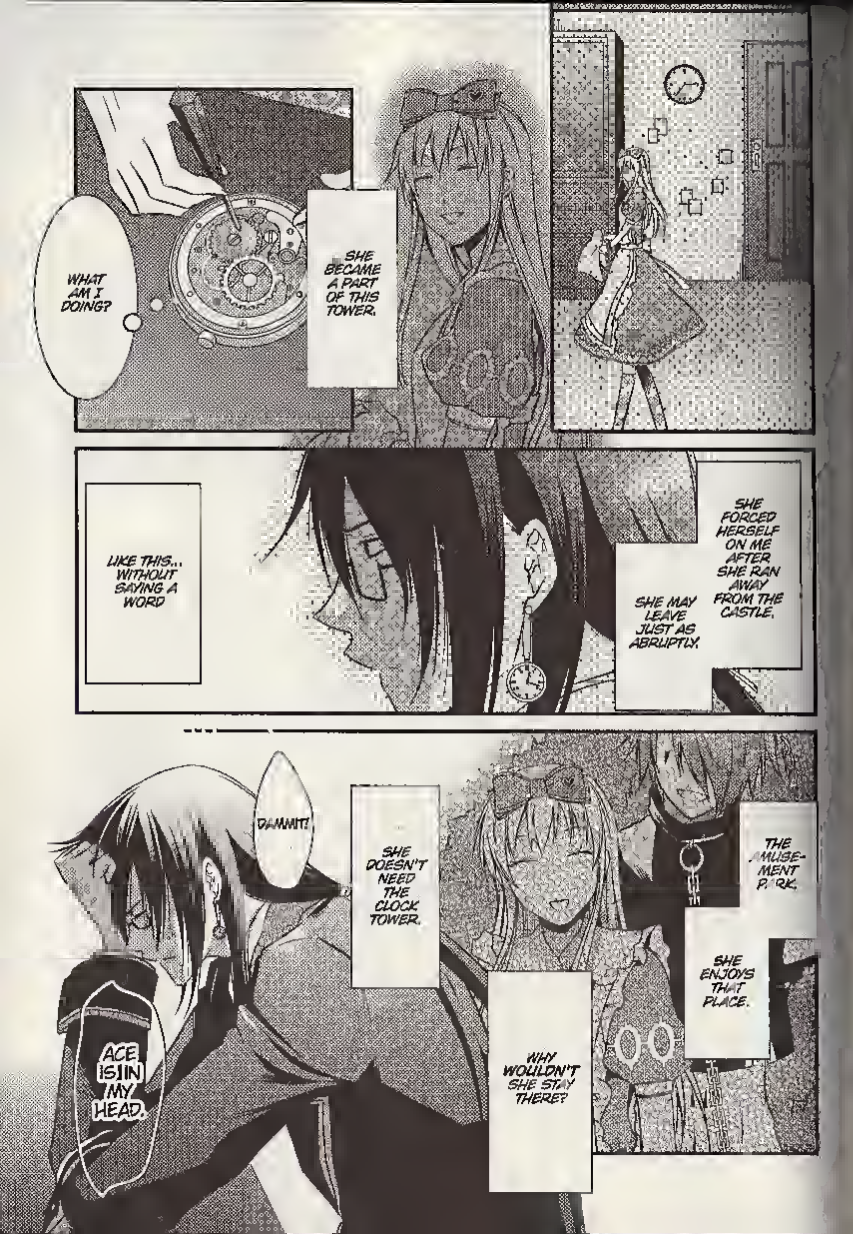

DAMN.
SQUEEZE
WHAT DOES EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD HAVE...
THAT YOU DON'T?
BORIS, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
HINT.
LISTEN.
FWUP
GET IT NOW?
LISTEN? TO HIS CHEST?


I DON'T CARE ONE WHIT!
LET THEM BE HIT!
DASH
NOT IN MY TERRITORY, YOU DON'T!
GO ON, NOW.
STEP
DON'T YOU START BRAWLIN' IN MY DOMAIN.
YOU COULD HIT MY CUSTOMERS!
GON-LAND
HUFF
HUFF
I THINK I'M... FAR ENOUGH AWAY.
HUH? WHO'S THAT?
I'M SO CONFUSED.
.....
HUFF
CLOCK!
FWUP
SHKSH
?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
THEN JULIUS IS FIXING...

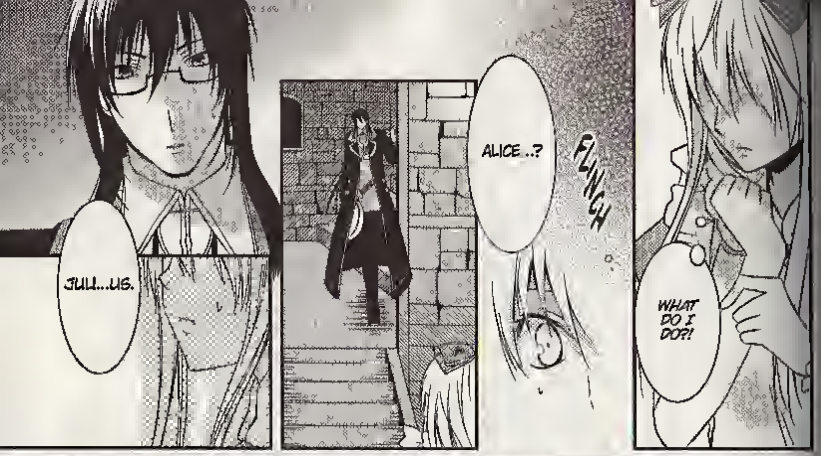
NO.!
PLEASE RETURN TO THE CASTLE AT ONCE
YANK
I'M NOT BUDGING, PM!
PETER?!
THERE YOU ARE, MY DEAR
?!
AND TO THINK--- YOU WERE HERE.
THAT IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
CHINK
SHE DOESN'T WANNA GO.
DRAT! DOSE YOU CONTAMINATE IMMUNE SYSTEM!
NO! STOP!!
SHOOT YA FOR IT
YOU HEARD THE GIRL!
ARE YOU MAD?
THIS PARK IS BRIMMING WITH MICROBES.
SURE IT IS
'CAUSE I WANT HER TO LIVE WITH ME

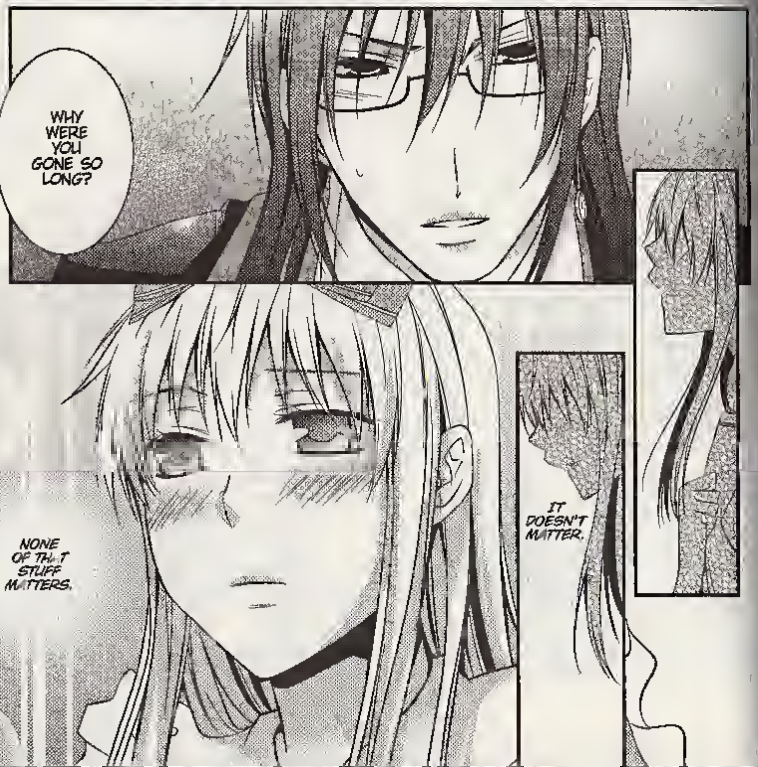
I'M... SCARED.
HA HA!
AW.
I FORGOT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
A M-MAN WAS ON THE GROUND. HE TURNED INTO A CLOCK
WHAT DO I DO?
MY VOICE IS SHAKING.
EEK!
HEY.
ACE..?
SINK
JULIUS IS GONNA HATE ME.
I DON'T HAVE TO CUT YOU DOWN.
SINCE YOU DIDN'T RUN OFF WITH THE CLOCK..
DON'T BE.
...
ARE YOU SCARED?

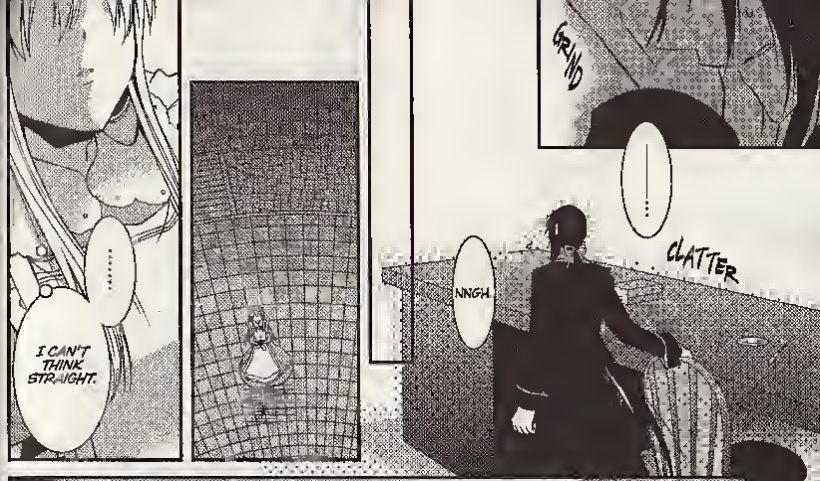
THUMP
SHWIP
SHIVER
CRUNCH
ALICE...
CAREFUL WITH THAT CLOCK.
VMM
VMM
VMM
!
THE BLACK SHADOWS.
THE ONES I SAW WITH JULIUS!

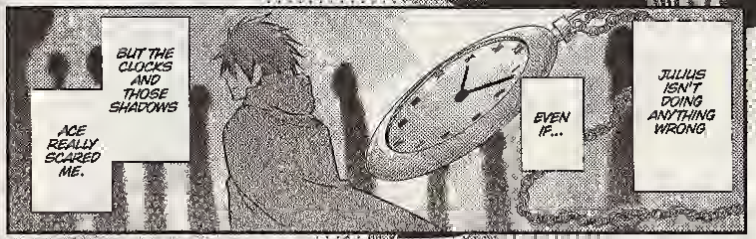

WHAT AM I DOING?
SHE BECAME A PART OF THIS TOWER.
LIKE THIS... WITHOUT SAYING A WORD
SHE MAY LEAVE JUST AS ABRUPTLY.
SHE FORCED HERSELF ON ME AFTER SHE RAN AWAY FROM THE CASTLE.
DAMMIT!
SHE DOESN'T NEED THE CLOCK TOWER.
WHY WOULDN'T SHE STAY THERE?
THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
SHE ENJOYS THAT PLACE.
ACE IS IN MY HEAD.

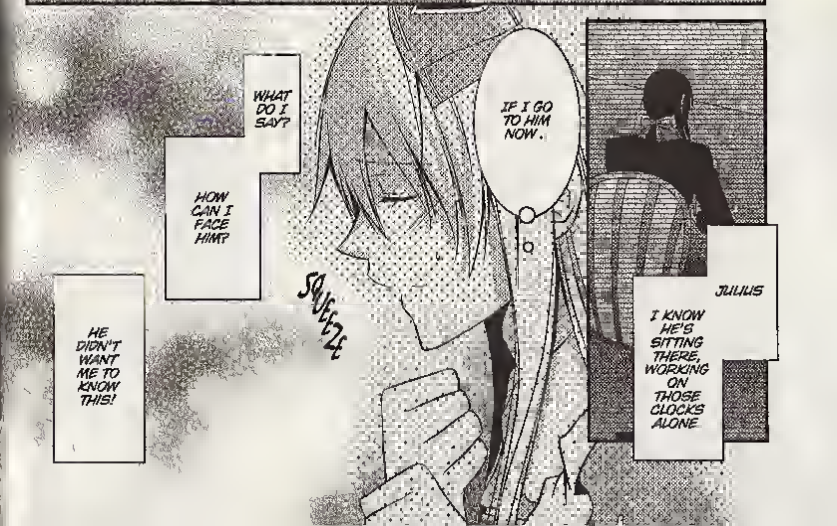
SHIVR
I HAVE TO..
GO HOME.
!
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT MORE WORK TO DO.
SAY HI TO JULIUS FOR ME.
TO THE CLOCK TOWER.
TINK
TINK
CREAK
HMPH!
BEFORE I REALIZED IT...
HM?
SHE'S LATE.
AND SHE'S NEVER STAYED OUT DURING NIGHT PERIODS.


JULI...US.
ALICE..?
FLINCH
WHAT DO I DO?!


WHY WERE YOU GONE SO LONG?
NONE OF THAT STUFF MATTERS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.


I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.
.....
GRIND
CLATTER
NNGH.

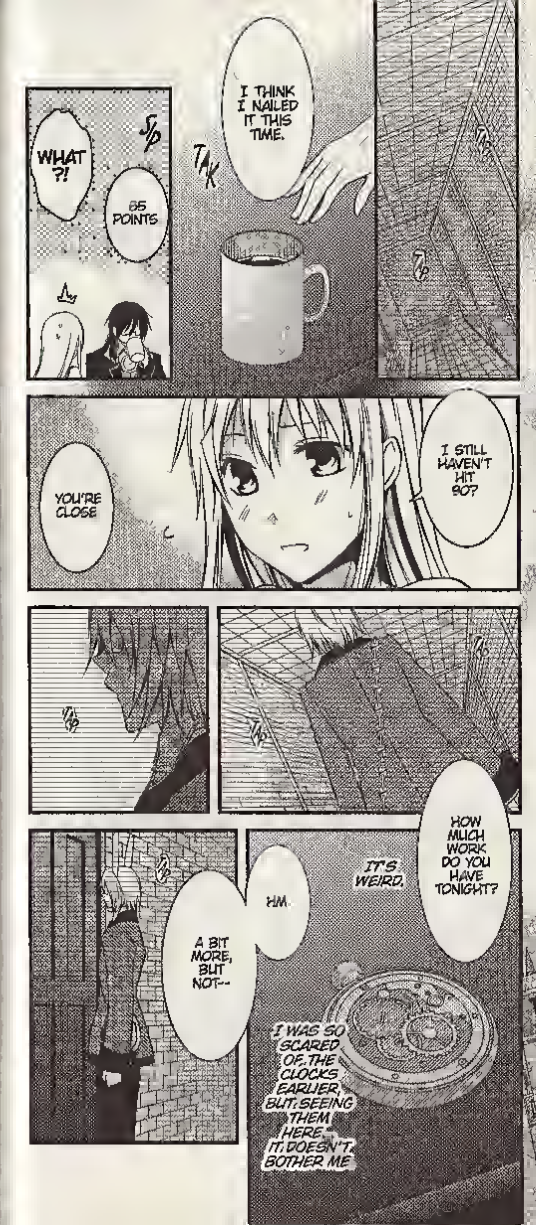

ACE REALLY SCARED ME.
BUT THE CLOCKS AND THOSE SHADOWS
EVEN IF...
JULIUS ISN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG

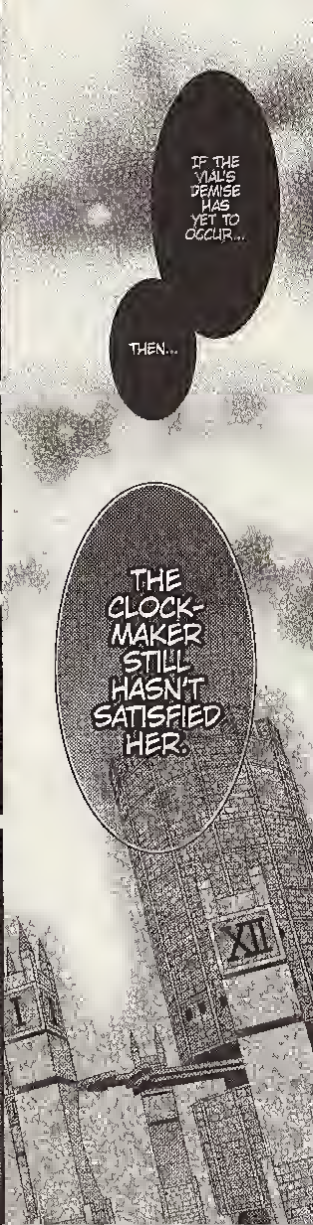

HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW THIS!
HOW CAN I FACE HIM?
WHAT DO I SAY?
IF I GO TO HIM NOW.
SQUEEZE
JULIUS
I KNOW HE'S SITTING THERE, WORKING ON THOSE CLOCKS ALONE.

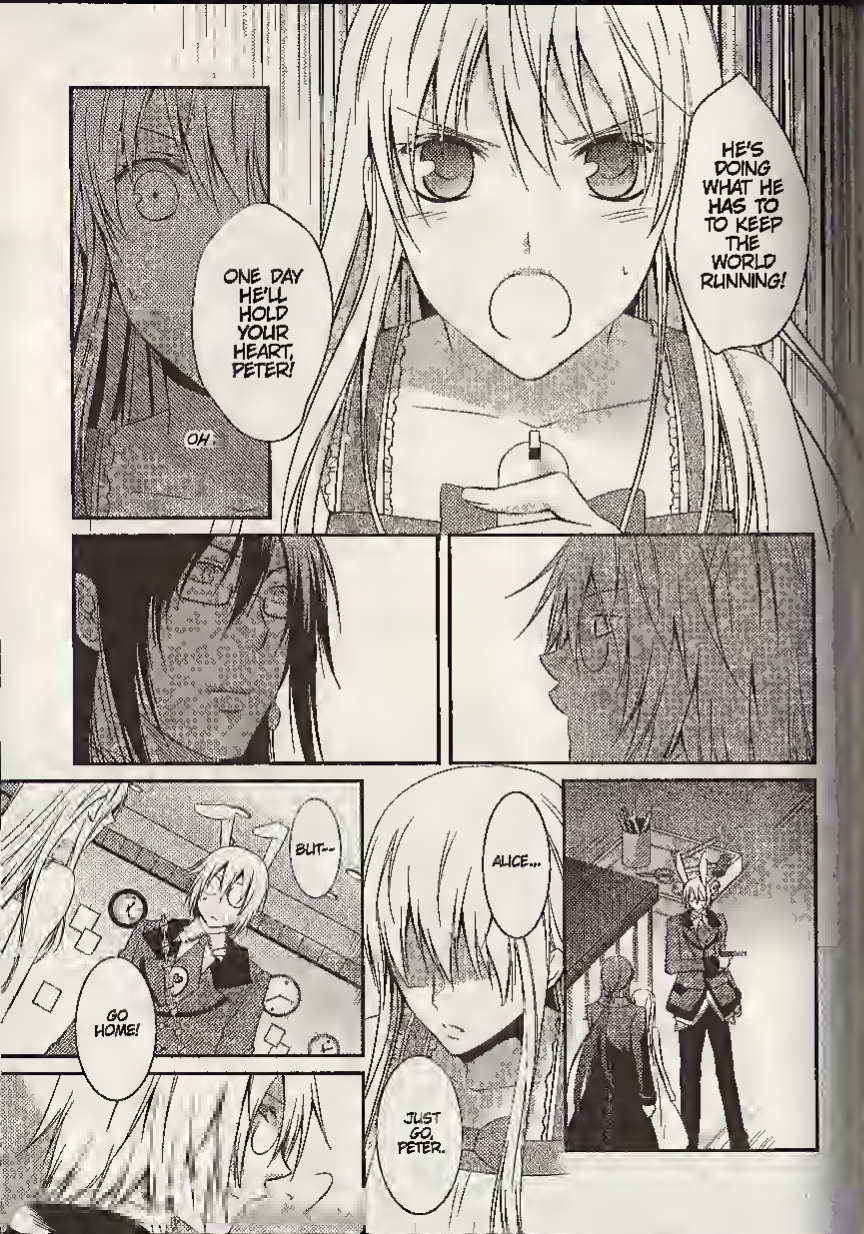
THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS THE GAME CAN END.
YOU CAN'T CONTROL EVERY-THING
SO WHAT HAPPENS, HAPPENS. LEAVE IT.
I ONLY HELPED YOU BRING HER HERE.
AND I'M NOT PICKING SIDES IN THIS
I'LL WATCH WHAT SHE DOES FROM HERE
AT LEAST THIS IS A FUN ROUTE.
THE VIAL?
IT HASN'T SHATTERED YET.
YES
OF COURSE NOT.

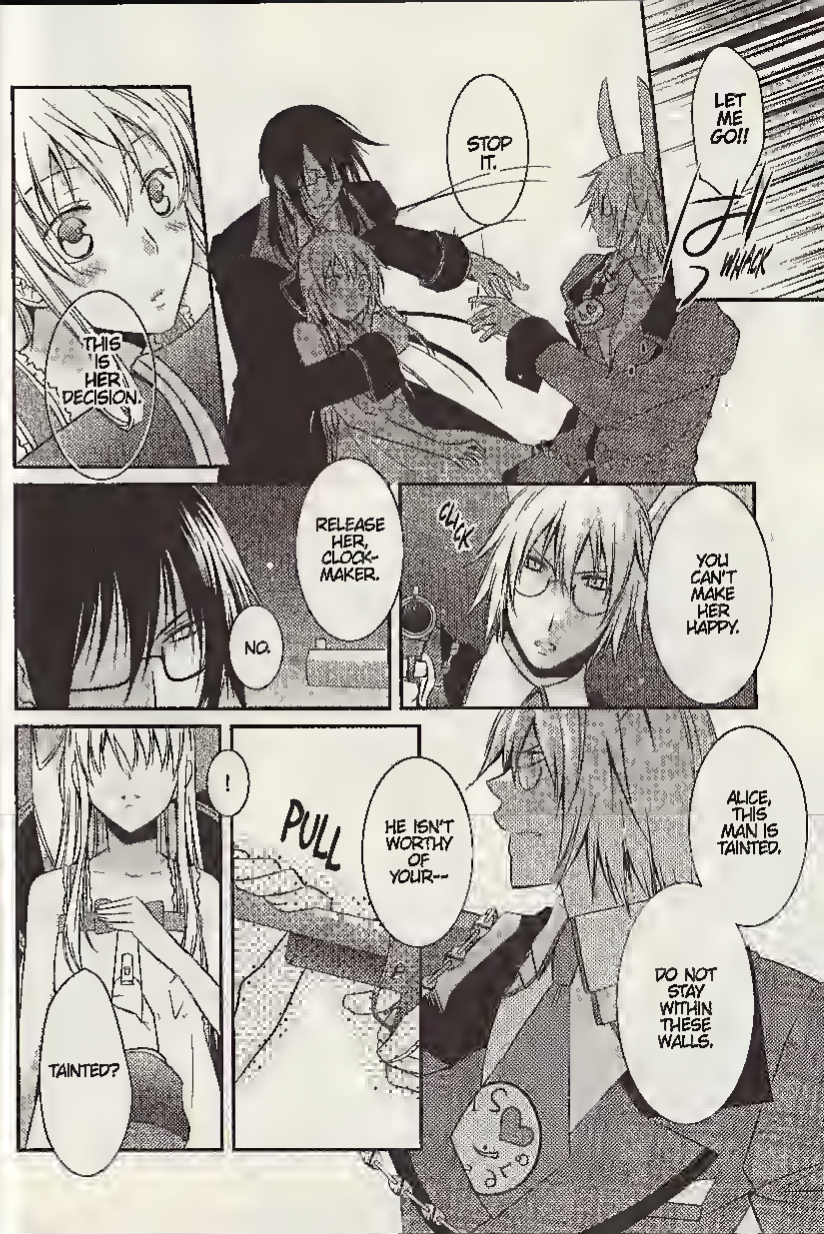
WHAT IS IT?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN AT THE PARK?
.....
DID YOU... COME DOWN BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
SNORT
N...
IT WAS COINCI-DENCE!
I-I NEEDED A WALK! TO WAKE UP!
DON'T GRAB ME!
SURE YOU DID.
HEH HEH
OH.
IT'S YOU.
ALICE WAS AT THE CLOCK TOWER ALL THIS TIME?
I HEARD FROM THE CHESHIRE CAT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
HEY. IT WAS HER CHOICE.

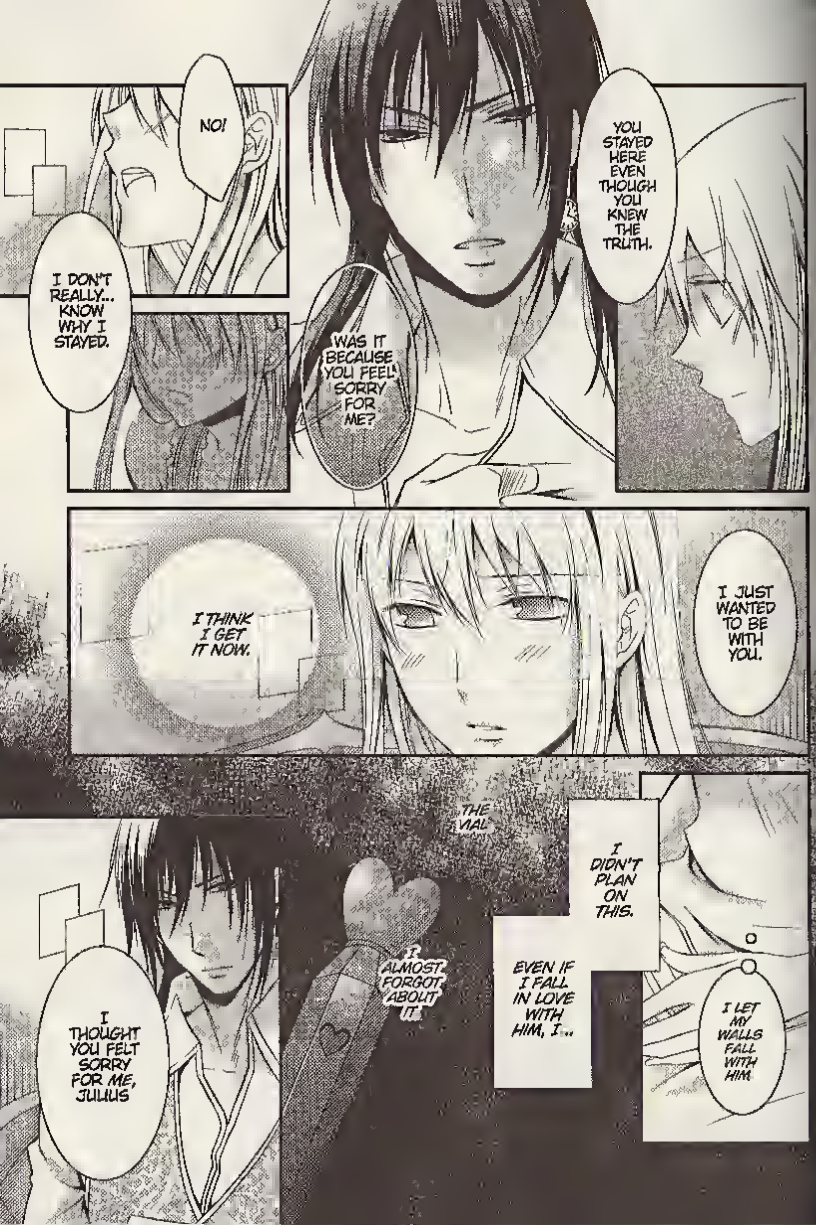
PETER?!
BAM!
POINT
BANG
NOT THE CLOCK-MAKER, I'M BEGGING YOU. NOT THIS SOUL-CRUSHING PLACE.
I'M TAKING YOU HOME.
YANK
NO .!
ALICE... I THOUGHT THAT ALL I WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY.
BUT THIS IS THE EXCEPTION.
JULIUS!
GRAB
IT JUST GRAZED ME.


I THINK I NAILED IT THIS TIME.
WHAT ?!
85 POINTS
YOU'RE CLOSE
I STILL HAVEN'T HIT 90?
HOW MUCH WORK DO YOU HAVE TONIGHT?
IT'S WEIRD.
HM.
A BIT MORE, BUT NOT--
I WAS SO SCARED OF THE CLOCKS EARLIER, BUT SEEING THEM HERE IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

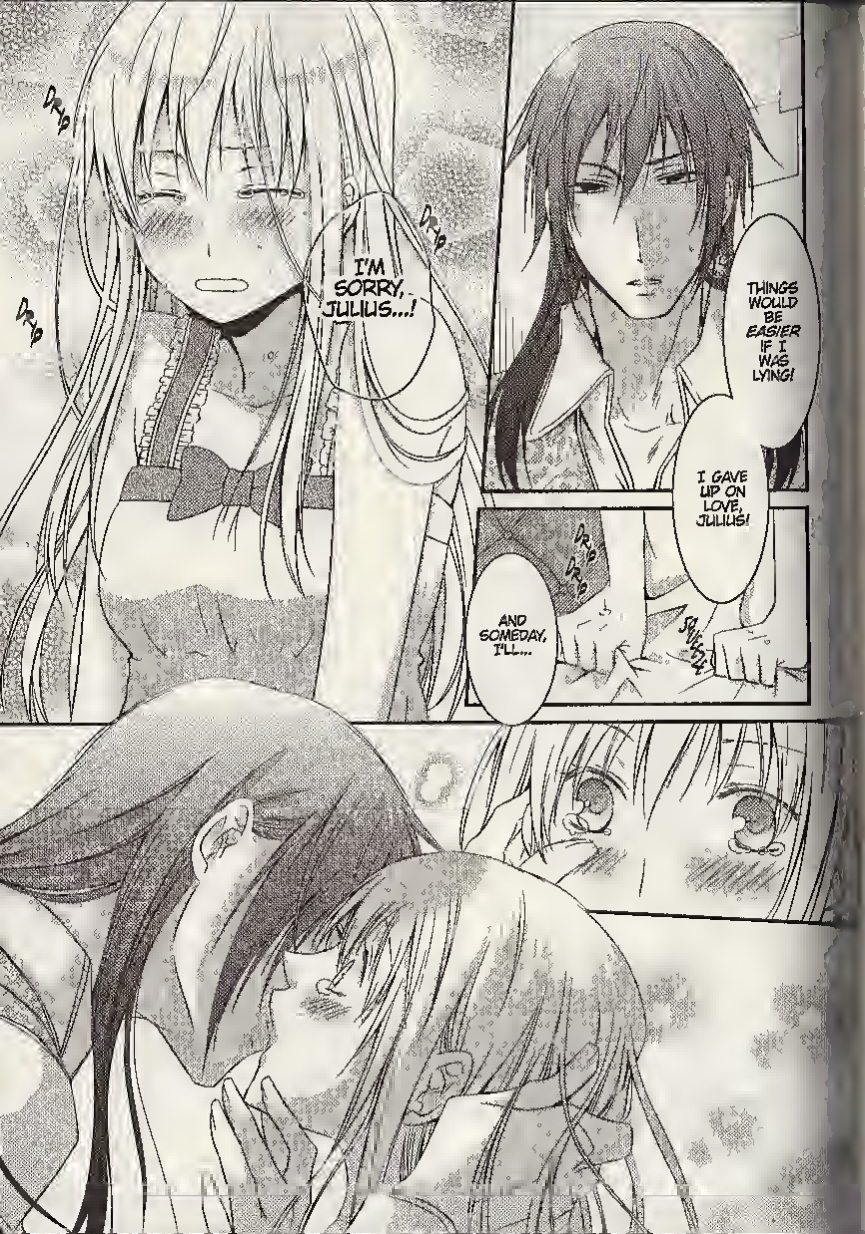

IF THE VIAL'S DEMISE HAS YET TO OCCUR...
THEN...
THE CLOCK-MAKER STILL HASN'T SATISFIED HER.
XII

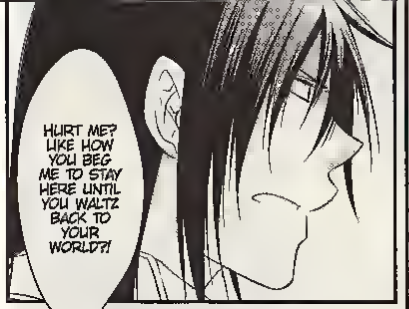

HE'S DOING WHAT HE HAS TO TO KEEP THE WORLD RUNNING!
ONE DAY HE'LL HOLD YOUR HEART, PETER!
OH.
ALICE...
JUST GO, PETER.
BUT--
GO HOME!


LET ME GO!!
WHACK
STOP IT.
THIS IS HER DECISION.
RELEASE HER, CLOCK-MAKER.
NO.
CLICK
YOU CAN'T MAKE HER HAPPY.
!
PULL
HE ISN'T WORTHY OF YOUR--
TAINTED?
ALICE, THIS MAN IS TAINTED.
DO NOT STAY WITHIN THESE WALLS.

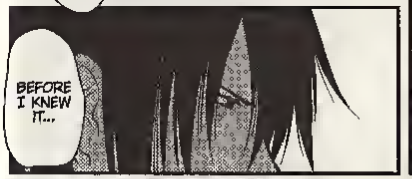

NO!
I DON'T REALLY... KNOW WHY I STAYED.
WAS IT BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?
YOU STAYED HERE EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW THE TRUTH.
I THINK I GET IT NOW.
I JUST WANTED TO BE WITH YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU FELT SORRY FOR ME, JULIUS
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT.
THE VIAL
EVEN IF I FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM, I...
I DIDN'T PLAN ON THIS.
I LET MY WALLS FALL WITH HIM.

JULIUS.
SHOW ME WHERE HE SHOT YOU.
KA-CHUNK
WHO TOLD YOU?
.....
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
IT WAS OBVIOUS YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW.
ON THE WAY HOME, I SAW A CORPSE TURN INTO A CLOCK.
ALICE CAME TO COLLECT IT WITH THE SHADOWS.
IT WAS AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
BORIS TOLD ME.

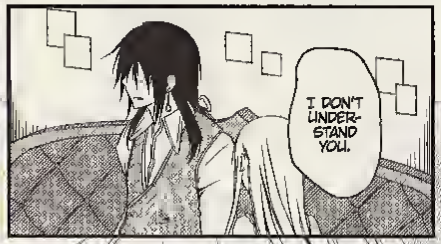

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
I'M SORRY, JULIUS...!
THINGS WOULD BE EASIER IF I WAS LYING!
I GAVE UP ON LOVE, JULIUS!
DRIP DRIP
SNIVEL
AND SOMEDAY, I'LL...


HURT ME? LIKE HOW YOU BEG ME TO STAY HERE UNTIL YOU WALTZ BACK TO YOUR WORLD?!

IF I'M MAKING YOU MISERABLE, JUST KICK ME OUT!
YOU LET ME WALK ALL OVER YOU AND I DON'T... I DON'T WANNA HURT YOU!


BEFORE I KNEW IT...

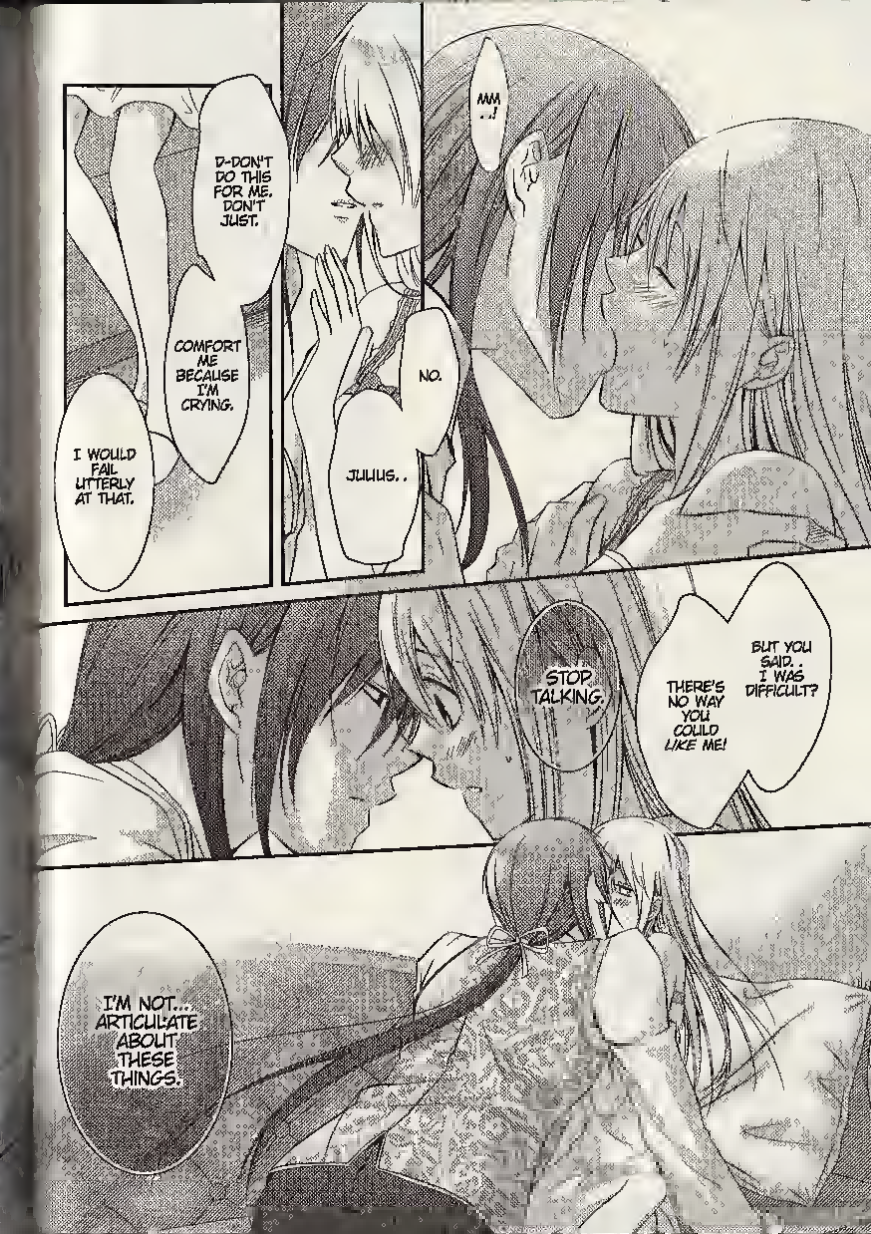
!...


I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.

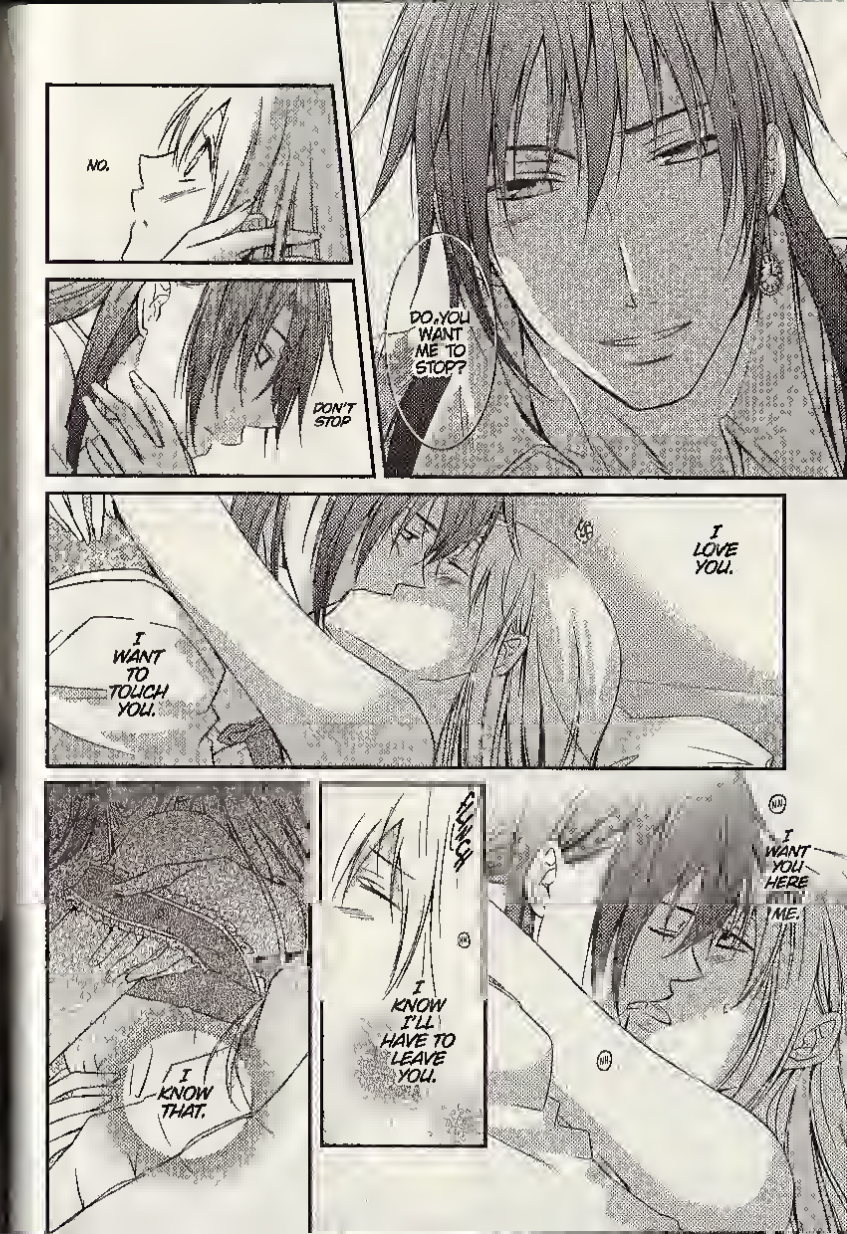
!...
DON'T LIE TO ME!

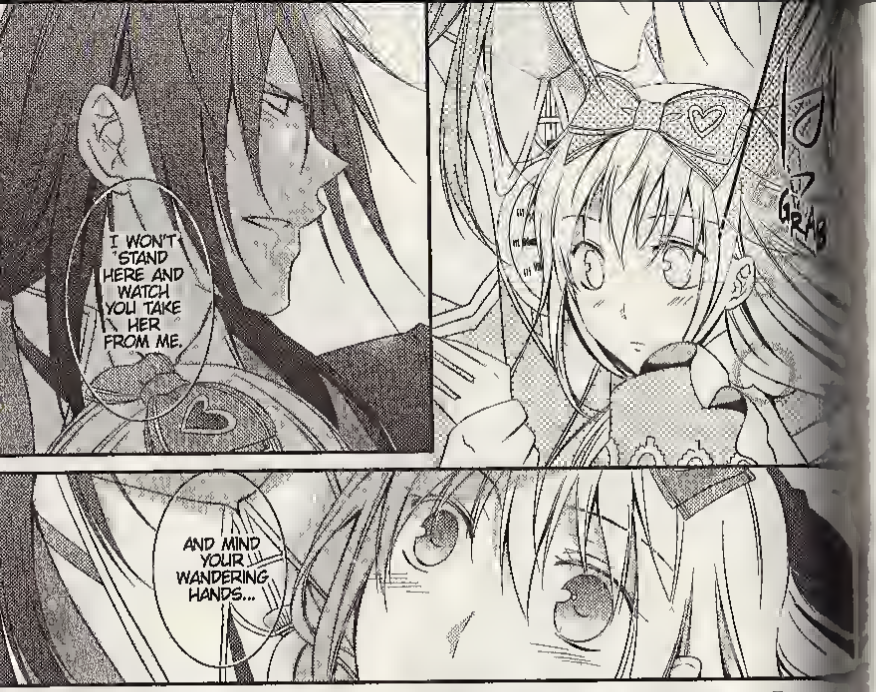
I'M SORRY, JULIUS.
I...
I THINK I LOVE YOU.

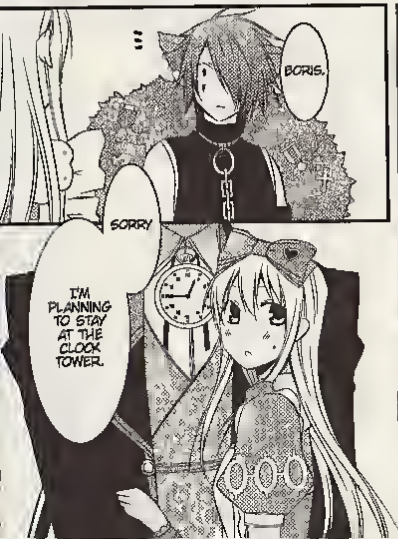
THANK
JULIUS
C-CAN I STILL LIVE WITH YOU?
POMFF
OF COURSE YOU CAN.
!
...!
C..N I REALLY DO THIS?
EVEN THOUGH I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THIS WORLD?
SIR. JULI
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN
MY MIND IS GOING
SIRG..L


MM ..!
D-DON'T DO THIS FOR ME. DON'T JUST.
COMFORT ME BECAUSE I'M CRYING.
I WOULD FAIL UTTERLY AT THAT.
NO.
JULIUS..
STOP TALKING.
BUT YOU SAID. I WAS DIFFICULT?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD LIKE ME!
I'M NOT... ARTICULATE ABOUT THESE THINGS.

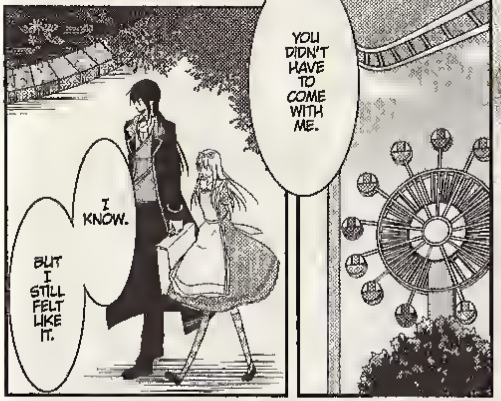
I LET GO WITH HIM.
I GUESS THE GAME IS ALMOST OVER.
BUT IF I LEAVE MY HEART BEHIND LIKE THIS...
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW BETTER.
JULIUS...
...!
WILL I BE LEAVING YOU ALONE?
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN I LEAVE YOUR WORLD?
WILL YOU BE LONELY...
OR WILL YOU KEEP SOMEONE ELSE BY YOUR SIDE?

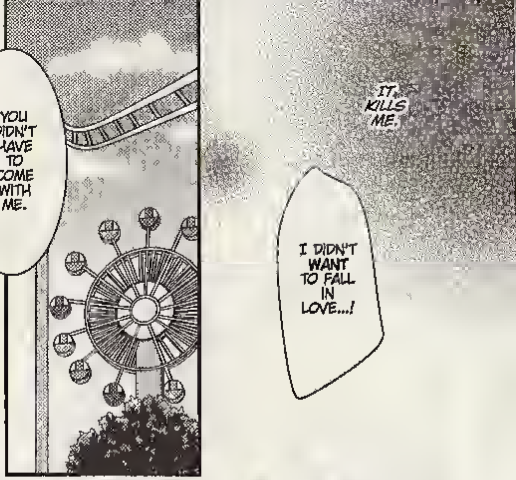

NO.
DON'T STOP
DO YOU WANT ME TO STOP?
I LOVE YOU.
I WANT TO TOUCH YOU.
I KNOW THAT.
CLINCH
I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU.
I WANT YOU HERE WITH ME.


I WON'T STAND HERE AND WATCH YOU TAKE HER FROM ME.
GRAB
AND MIND YOUR WANDERING HANDS...

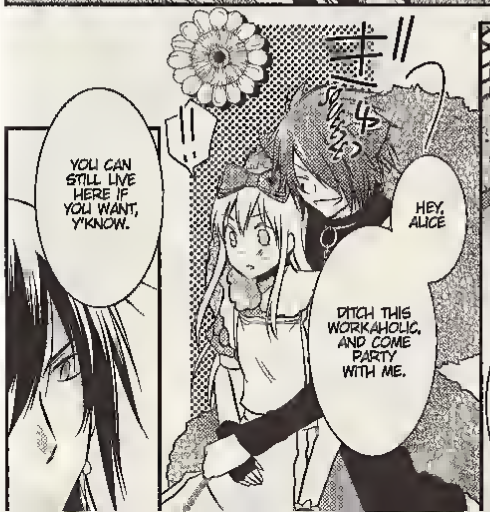

BORIS.
SORRY
I'M PLANNING TO STAY AT THE CLOCK TOWER.

HUNH.
BUT I LIKE HER, MAN.
AND I THINK I COULD MAKE HER HAPPY, UNLIKE YOU.
.....


YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME WITH ME.
I KNOW.
BUT I STILL FELT LIKE IT.


IT KILLS ME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO FALL IN LOVE...!

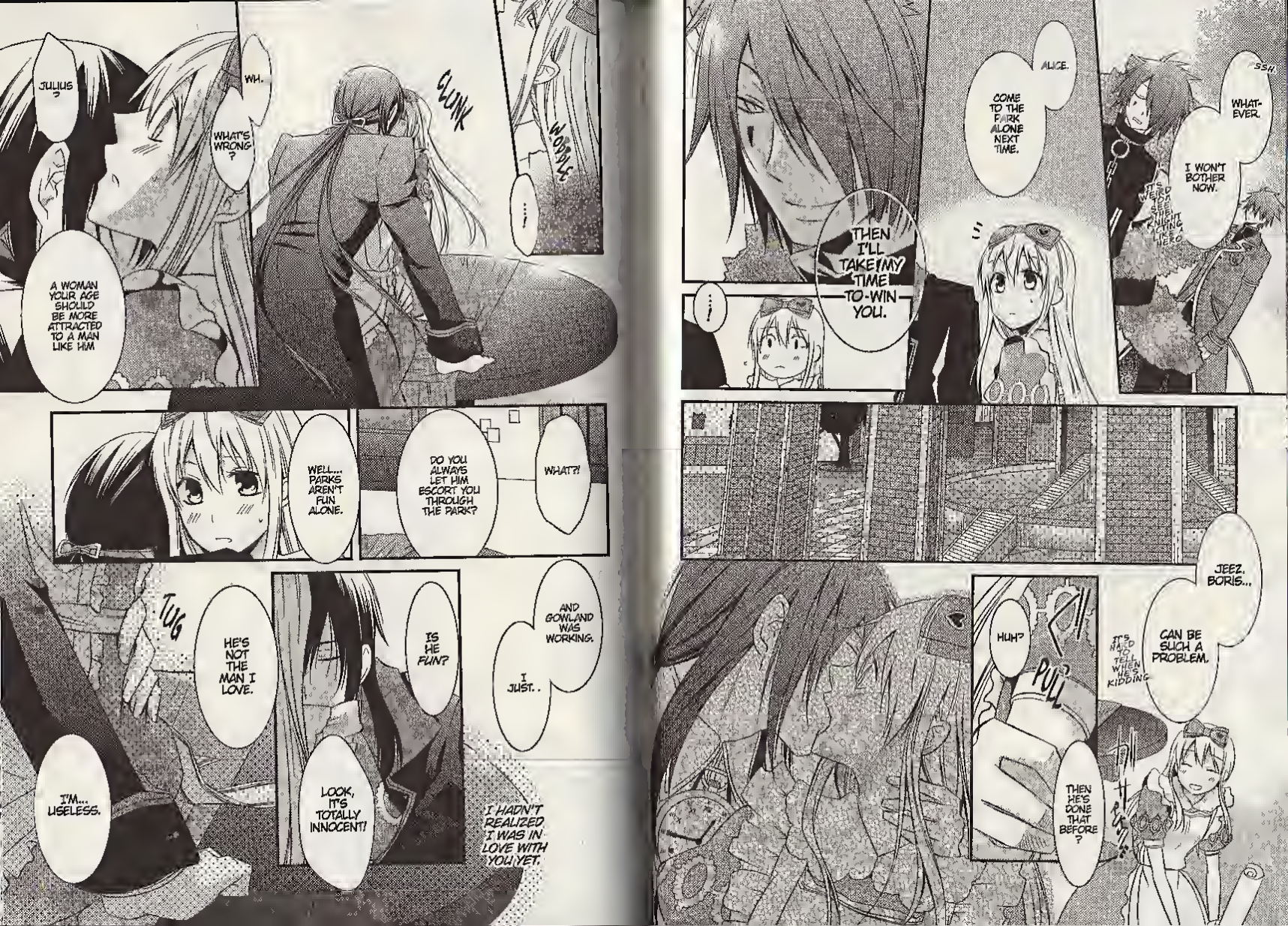
HEY, ALICE!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
RELAX
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY.

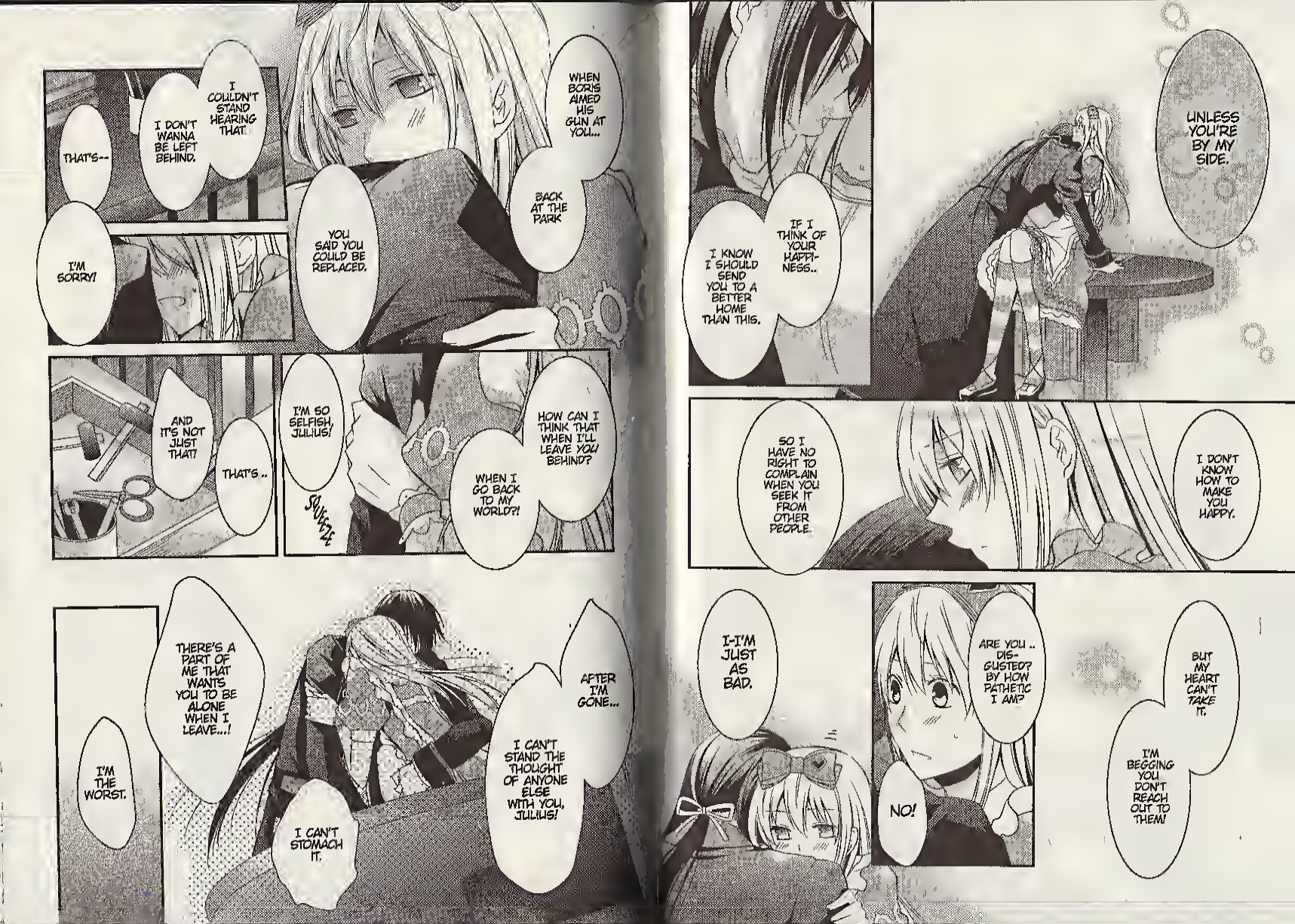

YOU CAN STILL LIVE HERE IF YOU WANT, Y'KNOW.
HEY, ALICE
DITCH THIS WORKAHOLIC, AND COME PARTY WITH ME.

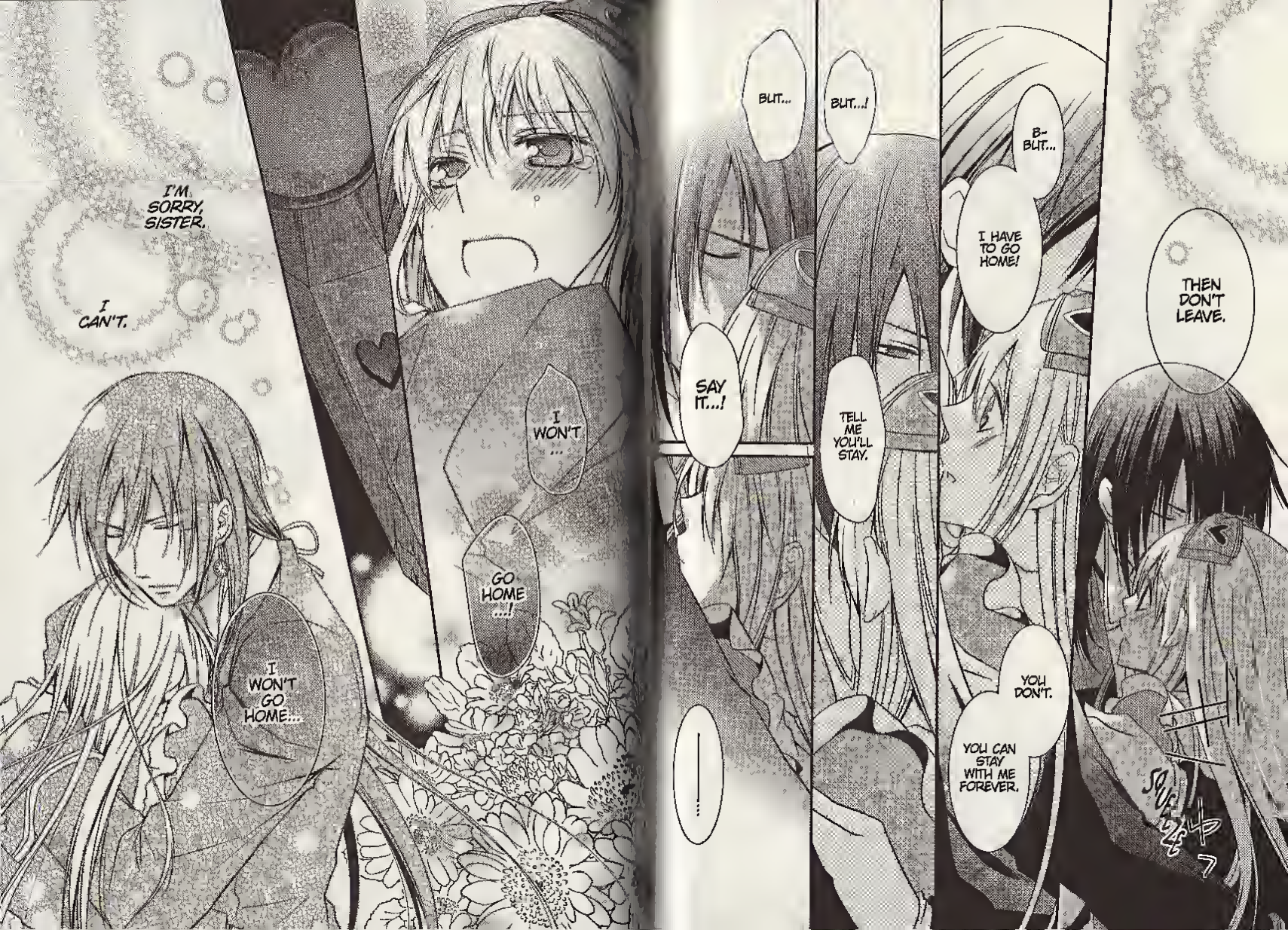
WHOA.
I CAME ON BUSINESS.
YOU GUYS ON A DATE?
PHEW!
I WAS WORRIED YOU TWO FINALLY BONED OR SOMETHING.

CRUNCH
BAD KITTY.
SLICE
IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR YOU AND JULIUS TO SHOOT IT OUT.
HUH?
HA HA
HE'S MY FRIEND.
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM?!
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
IF YOU WANT JULIUS, YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME
YOU MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THE BAD GUY.
ACE..

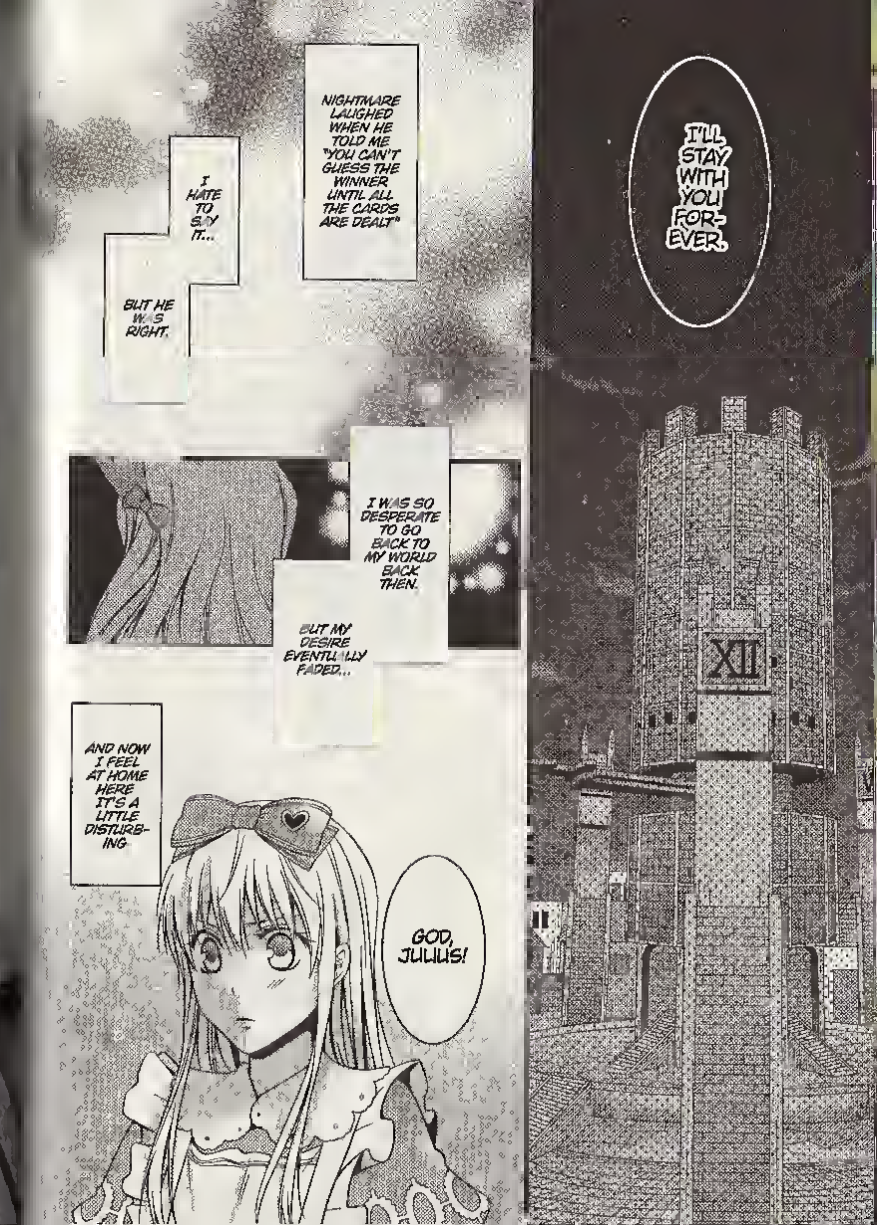
BECAUSE OF THE CLOCK-MAKER?
THEN I CAN FIX THAT.
YOU WOULDN'T STAY..
IN AN EMPTY TOWER
CLICK
EVEN IF YOU KILL ME, A NEW CLOCKMAKER WILL TAKE MY PLACE.
SWIP
GIVE IT UP.
I'M FASTER THAN YOU, CLOCK-MAKER
DON'T WORRY
I'LL BE SURE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!
BANG
NO!!
BORIS, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
NOT TRYING TO BE.
BUT ALICE SAID WE CAN'T BE REPLACED
NOT IN HER MIND


SSH.
WHATEVER.
I WON'T BOTHER NOW.
IT'S WEIRD TO SEE THEIR KNIGHT ACTING LIKE A HERO
ALICE.
COME TO THE PARK ALONE NEXT TIME.
THEN I'LL TAKE MY TIME TO WIN YOU.
JEEZ, BORIS...
CAN BE SUCH A PROBLEM.
IT'S HARD TO TELL WHEN HE'S KIDDING
HUH?
PULL
THEN HE'S DONE THAT BEFORE?
HEEEY!?
JULIUS?
WH.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SLUNK
WORRY
...
A WOMAN YOUR AGE SHOULD BE MORE ATTRACTED TO A MAN LIKE HIM
WELL... PARKS AREN'T FUN ALONE.
DO YOU ALWAYS LET HIM ESCORT YOU THROUGH THE PARK?
WHAT?!
AND GOWLAND WAS WORKING.
I JUST..
IS HE FUN?
TUG
HE'S NOT THE MAN I LOVE.
I'M... USELESS.
LOOK, IT'S TOTALLY INNOCENT!
I HADN'T REALIZED I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU, YET.


WHEN BORIS AIMED HIS GUN AT YOU...
BACK AT THE PARK
YOU SAID YOU COULD BE REPLACED.
I COULDN'T STAND HEARING THAT.
I DON'T WANNA BE LEFT BEHIND.
THAT'S--
I'M SORRY!
I'M SO SELFISH, JULIUS!
SQUEEZE
HOW CAN I THINK THAT WHEN I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND?
WHEN I GO BACK TO MY WORLD?!
THAT'S ..
AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT!
I KNOW I SHOULD SEND YOU TO A BETTER HOME THAN THIS.
IF I THINK OF YOUR HAPPI-NESS..
UNLESS YOU'RE BY MY SIDE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
SO I HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN WHEN YOU SEEK IT FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
I'M THE WORST.
THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WANTS YOU TO BE ALONE WHEN I LEAVE...!
I CAN'T STOMACH IT.
AFTER I'M GONE...
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF ANYONE ELSE WITH YOU, JULIUS!
I-I'M JUST AS BAD.
ARE YOU .. DIS-GUSTED? BY HOW PATHETIC I AM?
NO!
BUT MY HEART CAN'T TAKE IT.
I'M BEGGING YOU DON'T REACH OUT TO THEM!

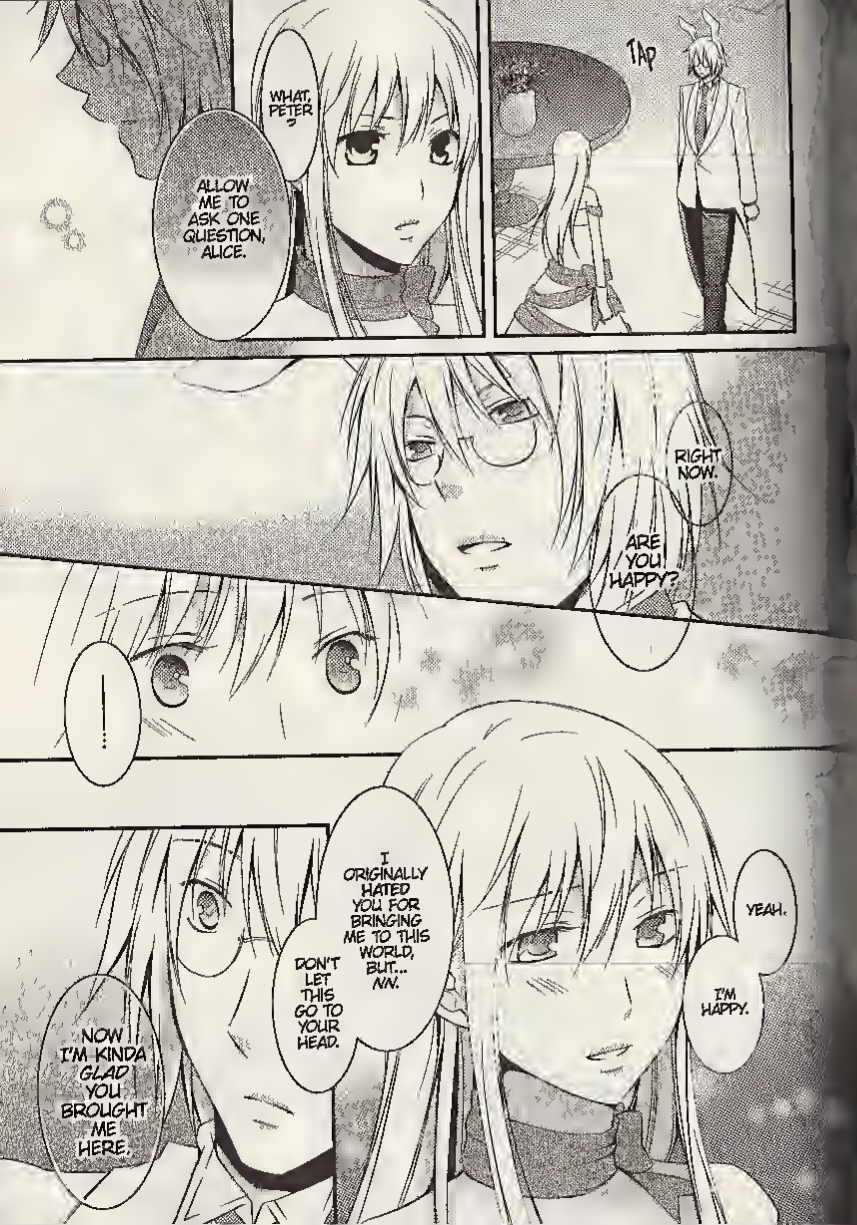

I'M SORRY, SISTER.
I CAN'T.
I WON'T GO HOME...
I WON'T...
GO HOME...!
BUT...
BUT...!
SAY IT...!
TELL ME YOU'LL STAY.
...
B-BUT...
I HAVE TO GO HOME!
YOU DON'T.
YOU CAN STAY WITH ME FOREVER.
THEN DON'T LEAVE.
SQUEEZE

I'M HERE.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE DUE FOR A BREAK SOON.
AND I BAKED A CAKE. HEH.
IF YOU KEEP SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS, YOU'RE GONNA SPROUT MUSHROOMS!
NOT TRUE.
I DECIDED TO STAY HERE..
IN THIS NEW WORLD..
SIGH.
YOU'RE GROWING LOUDER BY THE DAY.
BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU DROPPING DEAD!
WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL MAN.
GRIN
GRIN
UGH.
THAT TIME ALREADY?


I'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.
XII
NIGHTMARE LAUGHED WHEN HE TOLD ME "YOU CAN'T GUESS THE WINNER UNTIL ALL THE CARDS ARE DEALT"
I HATE TO SAY IT...
BUT HE WAS RIGHT.
I WAS SO DESPERATE TO GO BACK TO MY WORLD BACK THEN.
BUT MY DESIRE EVENTUALLY FADED..
AND NOW I FEEL AT HOME HERE IT'S A LITTLE DISTURBING
GOD, JULIUS!

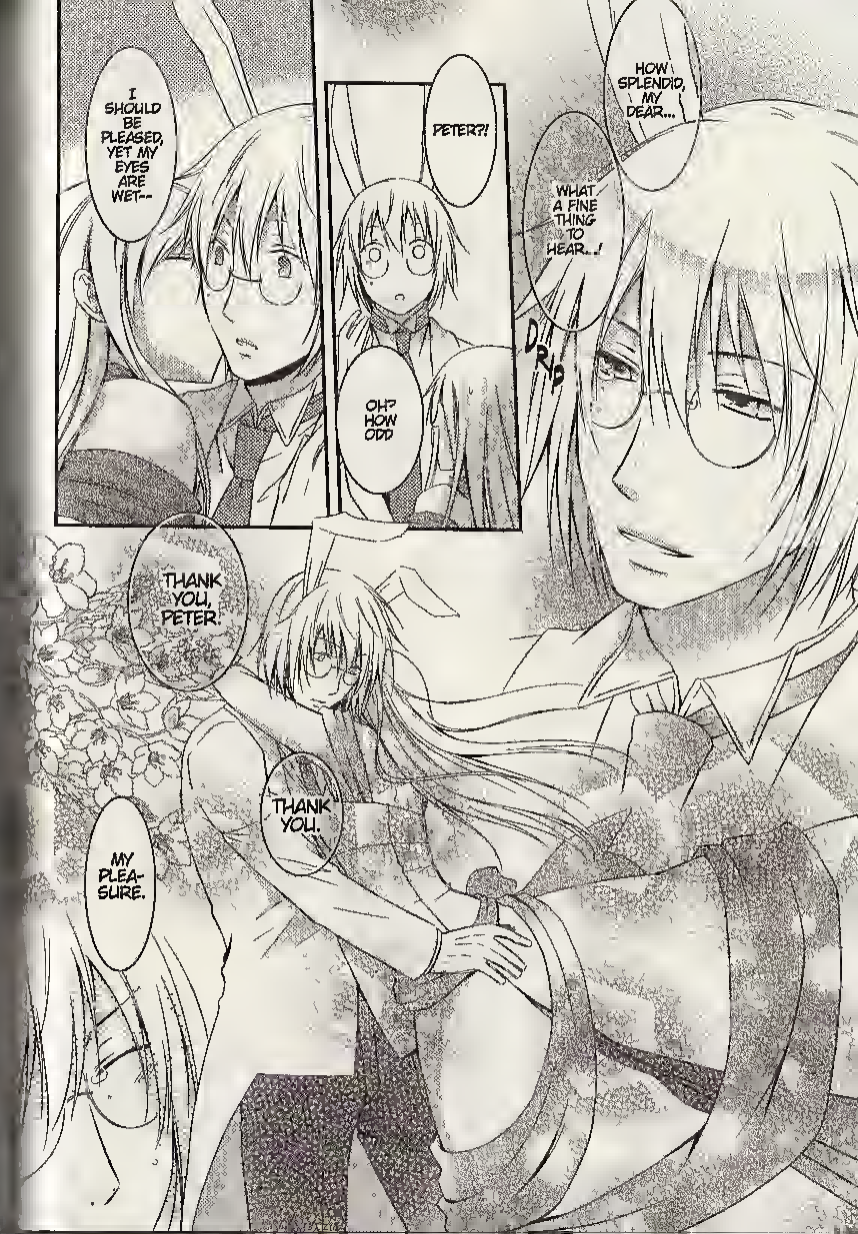
YOU'RE LIKE A KIDNAPPED PRINCESS.
C'MON, ALICE, ISN'T THIS SEXY?
LET ME GO! LET ME GO, LET ME GO, LET ME GO!!
THIS IS NOT SEXY!!
ACE ...!
DAM-MIT!
DASH
YOU SCARED?
HUH?
ALICE...
YOUR PRINCE CHARMING'S A LITTLE DARK, THOUGH.
PFFT
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA TIE UP YOUR OWN LOOSE ENDS.
HE NEEDS YOU.
DON'T BE.
HE'LL DEFI-NITELY COME FOR YOU.

SO I'M TAKING YOU BACK!
LIFT
OH
SOUNDS F...
FOR WHAT?
THERE'S GONNA BE A BALL AT THE CASTLE, ALICE.
GRAB
YOU'RE STILL A GUEST OF HEART CASTLE.
I'M NOT JOKING.
CHATTER
ACE!
QUIT JOKING!
STRUGGLE
BETTER COME TO THE PARTY AND CLAIM YOUR GIRL, JULIUS.
SEE YOU AT THE BALL!
NO!
PUT ME DOWN!!
YOU'VE BEEN A RUNAWAY LONG ENOUGH.


WHAT, PETER?
ALLOW ME TO ASK ONE QUESTION, ALICE.
TAP
RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU HAPPY?
!...
I ORIGINALLY HATED YOU FOR BRINGING ME TO THIS WORLD, BUT... NN.
DON'T LET THIS GO TO YOUR HEAD.
NOW I'M KINDA GLAD YOU BROUGHT ME HERE.
YEAH.
I'M HAPPY.

IT'S, UM, BEAUTIFUL
YES!
HER MAJESTY PICKED IT OUT JUST FOR YOU
J-JULIUS HAD BETTER COME GET ME.
YEAH?
KNOCK-KNOCK
VIVALDI..
WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY THEN.
!...
KA-CHAK
EXCUSE ME.

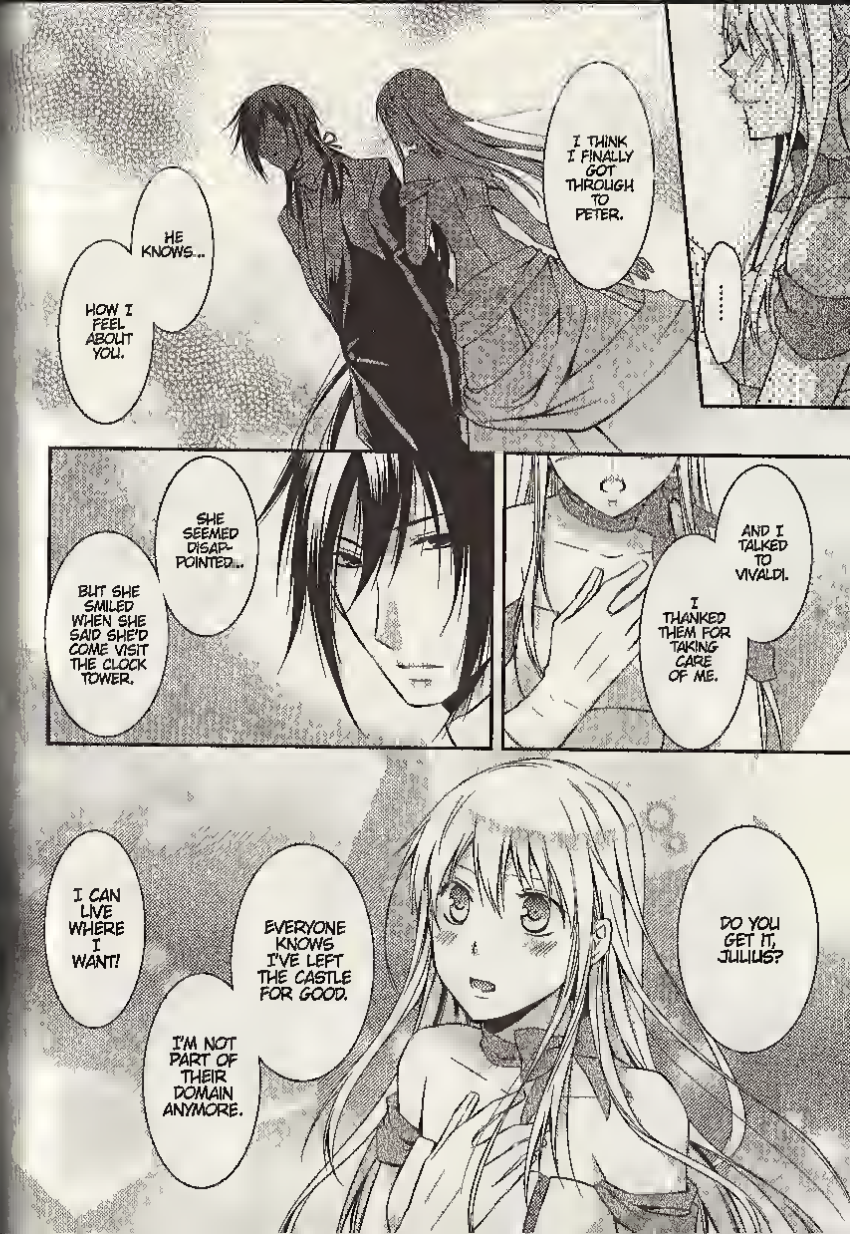
WHY ARE YOU HERE, ACE?
I CAN ESCORT ALICE ALONE.
HMPH.
DON'T BE SO COLD, PETER.
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE HALL WITHOUT YOU.
IF YOU THINK YOU'LL WANDER, FEEL FREE!
NOW! GET LOST--LITERALLY!!
HERE WE ARE, ALICE.
OH, RIGHT.
I HOPE JULIUS REALLY COMES FOR ME.
ARE YOU THIRSTY? YOU'RE PINK.
I'LL FETCH YOU A DRINK.
NO, I'M FINE.
THEN PERHAPS SOME FOOD?
WELL...

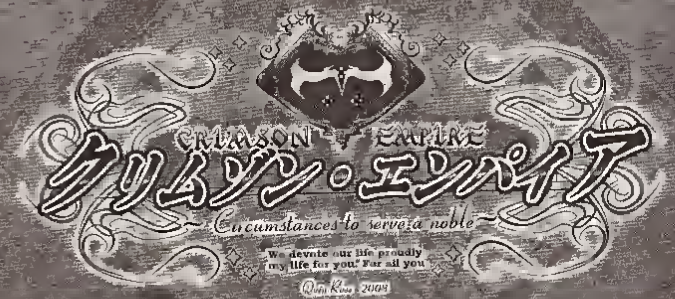

I SHOULD BE PLEASED, YET MY EYES ARE WET--
PETER?!
OH? HOW ODD
HOW SPLENDID, MY DEAR...
WHAT A FINE THING TO HEAR..!
DRIP
THANK YOU, PETER.
THANK YOU.
MY PLEA-SURE.

I'LL BITE MY TONGUE..
AND BRUSH OFF MY PAINS..
I ONLY CARE THAT HER HAPPINESS REIGNS.
THAT'S WEIRDLY COOL OF YOU, PETER.
SO WHERE'S THE BOOZE?
LOOK FOR IT YOURSELF!
WE'RE GOING HOME.
HUH?! HEY!
WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DANCE.
WELL, I MEAN...
THIS IS SUCH A LET-DOWN.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED SOMETHING
YOU DON'T... WANT TO COME BACK TO THE TOWER?
THAT'S NOT IT!

J-JULIUS!
AND NOW I FIND YOU...
WITH TWO OTHER MEN!
DAMMIT, JULIUS!
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ROMANTIC!
HE'S JEALOUS!
I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU!
WHOA
YOU'RE REALLY OKAY WITH THIS, PETER?
HUH?
OF COURSE I'M NOT!
I'M SUPPRESSING MY URGE TO MURDER THE CLOCK-MAKER.
GRIND
GOOD.
BECAUSE I COULD MURDER YOU FASTER.

TUG
!
I'M SORRY.
I WAS UPSET WHEN I SAW YOU BEING INTIMATE WITH THE WHITE RABBIT
I CAN'T WAIT ON YOU HAND AND FOOT LIKE HE DOES.
AND I CAN'T ENTERTAIN YOU, WHICH I KNOW IS WHAT DRAWS YOU TO THE CHESHIRE CAT.
I'M NOT CONFI-DENT...
THAT I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY.
BUT I STILL NEED YOU.


I THINK I FINALLY GOT THROUGH TO PETER.
.....
HE KNOWS...
HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
SHE SEEMED DISAP-POINTED...
BUT SHE SMILED WHEN SHE SAID SHE'D COME VISIT THE CLOCK TOWER.
AND I TALKED TO VIVALDI.
I THANKED THEM FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
DO YOU GET IT, JULIUS?
I CAN LIVE WHERE I WANT!
EVERYONE KNOWS I'VE LEFT THE CASTLE FOR GOOD.
I'M NOT PART OF THEIR DOMAIN ANYMORE.

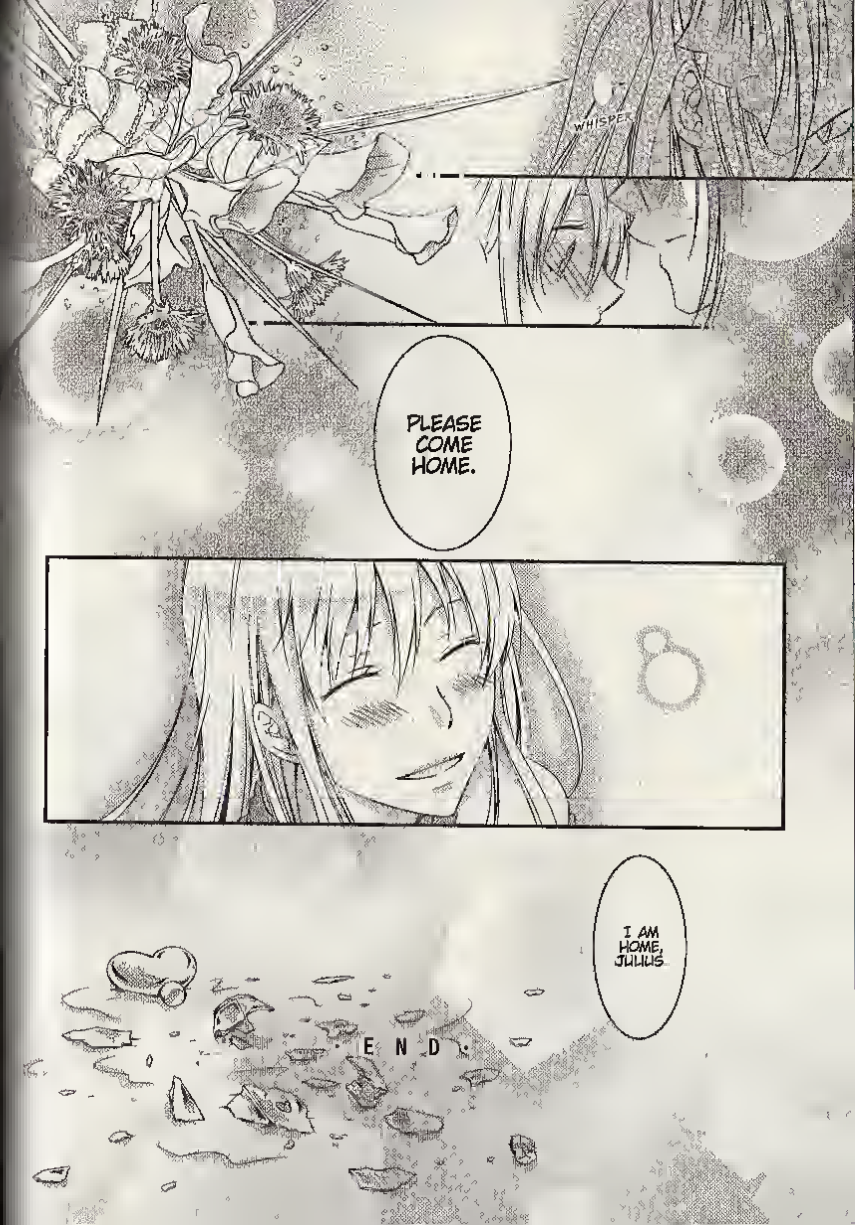


- STORY -

The setting is a country of aristocrats: a tributary nation for Luxonne. *Crimson Empire* is a love adventure game about a maid, Sheila, who works in the luxurious royal castle. But behind the lavish façade, the castle is home to a savage—and bloody—political war.

Strong and skilled, Sheila uses her position as a maid to hide her true profession: bodyguard to Prince Edvard. Sheila carries a dark past of enslavement and murder. Now she survives day to day, with only a small wish in her heart.

While navigating the power struggle between Prince Edvard and his brother, the deceptive Prince Justin, Sheila must understand and use the dangerous people who surround her. But although a brilliant fighter and tactician, Sheila is unskilled when it comes to love and friendships. Such a gap between her power and her heart could lead to a dire ending indeed!



I WOULD DIE FOR PRINCE EDVARD.
THAT'S MY PROUDEST VOW, AND MY ONLY REASON FOR LIVING.
MY LOYALTY IS MY EVERY-THING.
AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
CLANG

Crimson Empire Character Information

Sheila Rozen

The intensely loyal head maid to Prince Edvard—and his secret bodyguard. She's a skilled leader and shrewdly political, in addition to being fierce in combat. She doesn't hide her roots as a slave.

Marshall Aid

VA: Ikeuchi Norio

Prince Justin's head servant. He argues with Sheila in public but doesn't dislike her. In private, they're intimate enough to spar playfully.

Justin Roberuffey

VA: Daisuke Hirakawa

The eldest prince and Edvard's older brother. Since his mother is of lower status, Justin falls below his younger brother in line for the throne.

Edvard Winfree

VA: Kenichi Suzumura

Sheila's master. While friendly and regal on the surface, he's very condescending. He thinks of Sheila as more than a subordinate and loves her more than his own family... or so he claims.

Varchia Ganasen

VA: Mitsuishi Keiko

Varchia, the vice maid, is a close friend of Sheila's, and is a former slave. Her actions and words are always painfully neutral. She's trustworthy and helps Sheila in both public and private.

Rambures Dannunzio

VA: Tomiyan Akiko

A commoner who was knighted after saving the king. He loves to lurk in his room and brew concoctions—which often stink and explode—instead of interacting with the nobility.

Bryon Capella

VA: Tatsuhisa Suzuki

Son of the marquis who one day will inherit the position and become an important pillar of the country. He seems cheerful and carefree, but rather guarded. Like his sister, he adores Sheila.

Ronalus Eckert

VA: Daisuke Kishio

Another guest in the royal castle, Ronalus is the servant to the Queen of Luxonne. Although he enjoys a higher status by serving the queen, he has a good relationship with other servants. His role is to monitor Meissen.

Rauranne Balzola

VA: Daisuke Namikawa

A wizard staying in the royal castle who is treated as a guest, but he's been in the castle longer than anyone. He's lived a *long* life, and his real age doesn't match his looks.

Lilley Capella

VA: Miyazaki Aoi

Another battle maid, but of noble birth, Lilley is fiercely loyal to Sheila. She has innate skill, and her strength is second only to Sheila's. She and her brother Bryon are very close.

Curtis Nile

VA: Akira Ishida

A deadly assassin who specializes in poisons. He raised Sheila, and nearly killed her with his vicious training. Ever since, their relationship has been strained, to say the least.

Michael Faust

VA: Hikaru Midorikawa

A demon who made a contract with Meissen. He's dangerously strong, monologues frequently, and is oddly nervous. His mental instability feeds his pessimism.

Meissen Hildegarde

VA: Hirohashi Mo

Meissen has a tendency to wander, and he's traveled all over the world. His ladykiller persona hides a powerful wizard. He's searching for the truth and is trying to become a sage—supposedly.

...AND PUT A KNIFE TO MY THROAT.
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, MARSHALL WILL BE FASTER
HE'S PINNED MY DOMI-NANT HAND...
DAMN.
I LOST THIS ONE.
I YIELD.
FINISH ME OFF.
SIGH
SLIP
SLIP
DON'T TOUCH MY !
WHAT DO YOU--
HEY!
OW!
HERE.
IS THIS A WOUND ?
DRIP
SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT.
HUH ?
WHAT? HURRY UP
STRANGE

TAP
TAP
WHOOSH

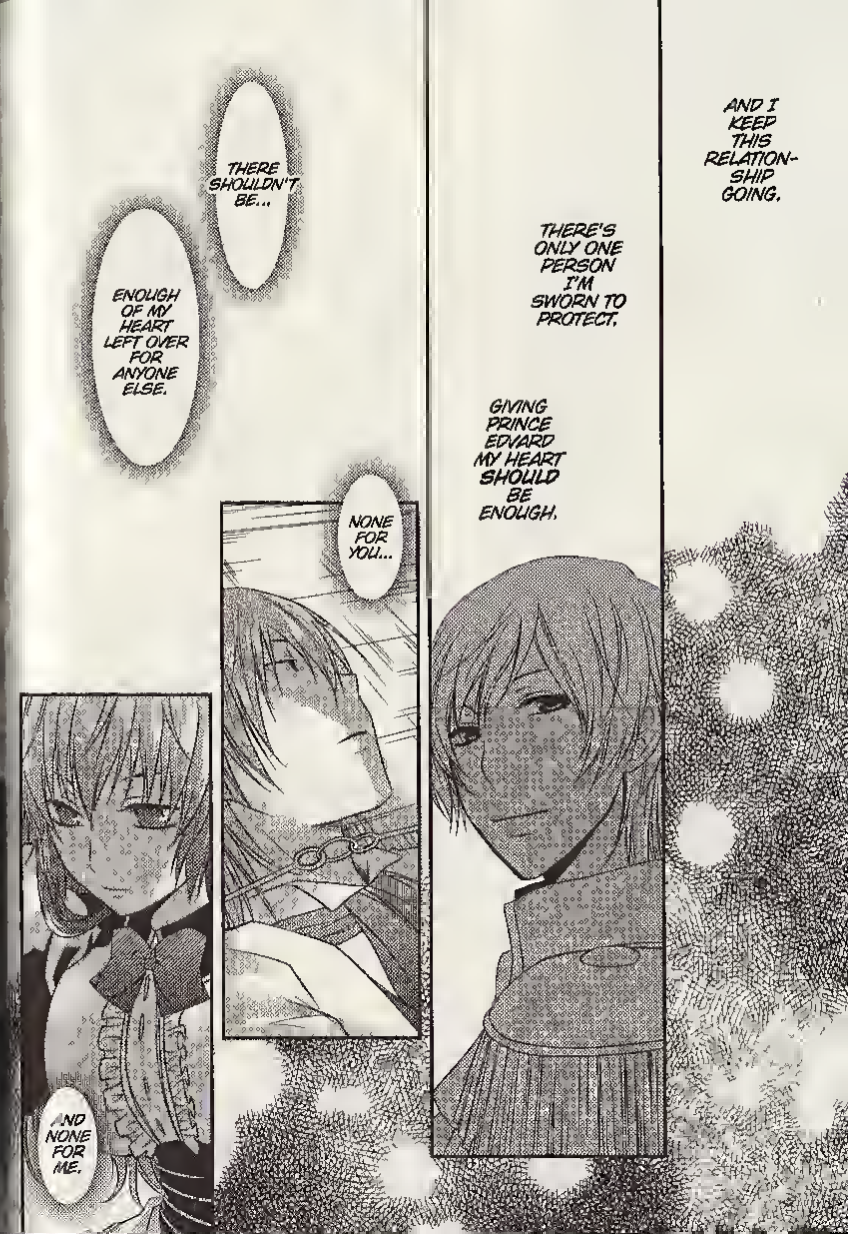
I'M... SICK OF THIS.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN-- EVEN WHEN WE'RE TRAINING
.....
LOOK AT THAT.
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR WEAKNESS.
NO SPLATTER

YOU COULD HAVE JUST DELAYED OUR SPARRING
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TREAT THAT
AND IT TOOK ME LONGER THAN EXPECTED
I MADE A LITTLE MISTAKE ON MY LAST MISSION
DAMMIT.
I'VE BEEN CAUGHT.
NO.
BEING INJURED IS A PERFECTLY GOOD EXCUSE--
I DON'T WANT YOU WORRYING ABOUT ME.
WHAM
HUH?
YOU STUPID--!
DON'T YOU DARE PANIC!
YOU'RE BEING STUBBORN.
COME WITH ME-- WE'LL BANDAGE YOUR WOUND

AND THEN, LIKE A CHILD, I MAKE UP EXCUSES.
"JUST FOR NOW." "JUST FOR TODAY"
I LET MY GUARD DOWN...
...BECAUSE I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU!!
MARSHALL
I HAVE FUN WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
"THIS ISN'T SERIOUS."

I PROMISED MARSHALL WE'D TRAIN AFTER THIS.
WHAT?
IT'S SO LATE!
I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE.
PHEW.
THEY'RE WEAK, BUT UNENDING. IT'S EXHAUSTING
YES
THIS MISSION IS ON--
BIG SISTER!
?!
SON OF A...!
STAB
GAH!
THUNK
SWING
BIG SISTER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I... I'M FINE.

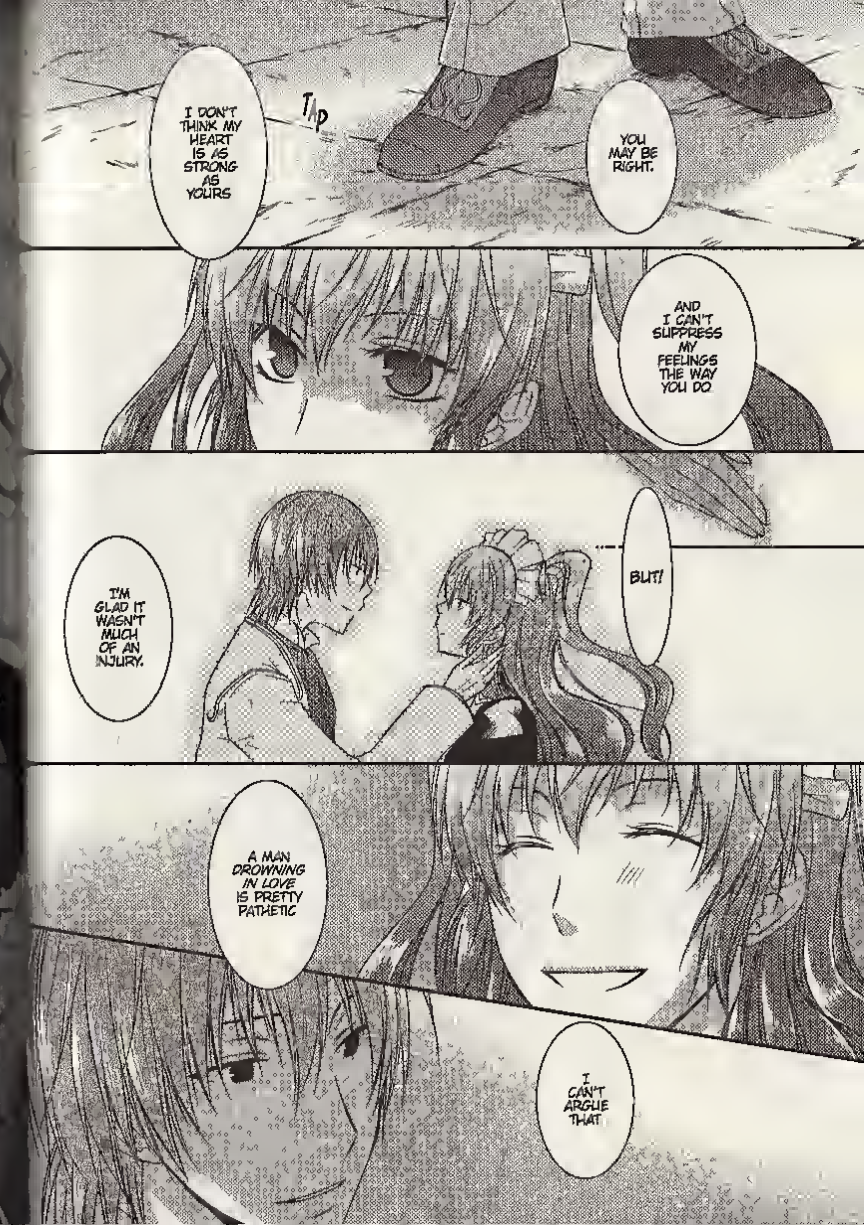
IT'S TIME TO STOP PLAYING GAMES.
WE'RE ENEMIES, MARSHALL.
WE SHOULD STOP SEEING EACH OTHER.
YOU'RE REJECTING ME NOW?
HUH?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PROPOSING?
NO
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR
DO YOU PLAN TO KILL ME HERE?

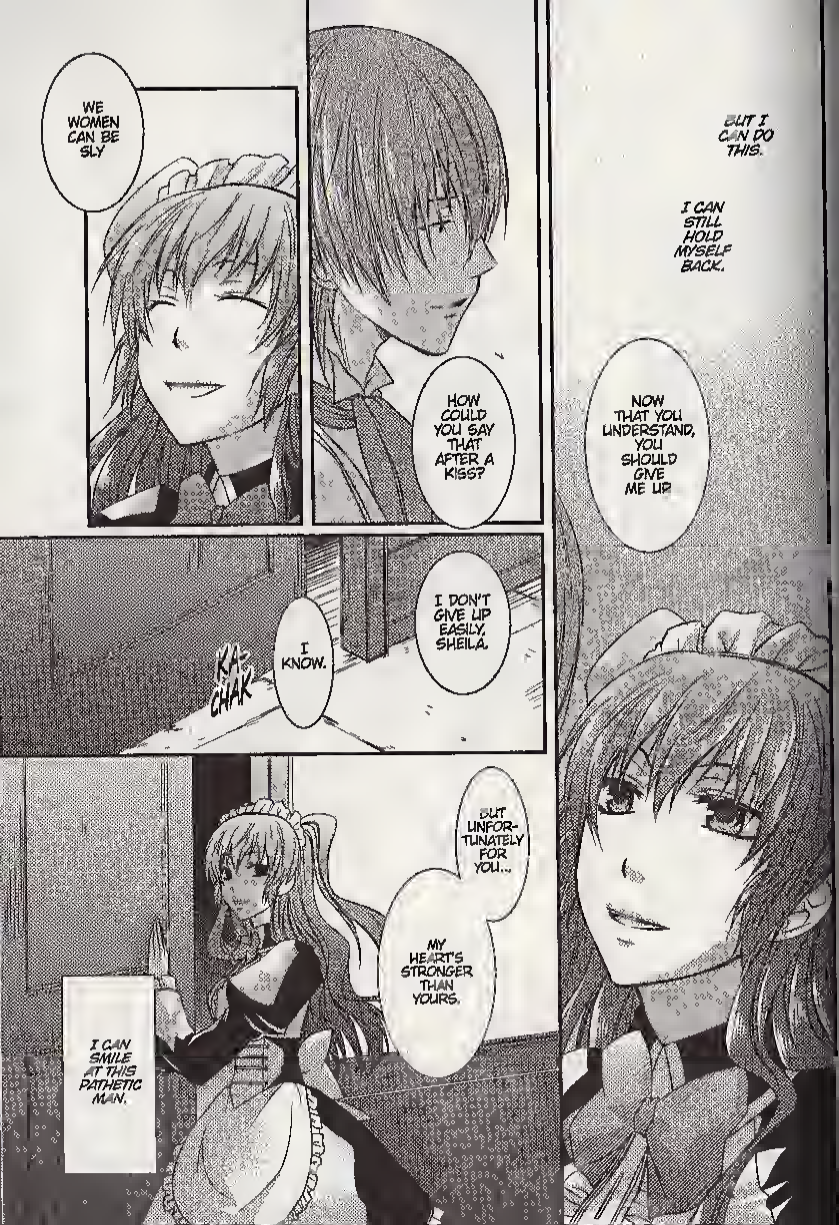

THERE SHOULDN'T BE...
ENOUGH OF MY HEART LEFT OVER FOR ANYONE ELSE.
NONE FOR YOU...
AND NONE FOR ME.
AND I KEEP THIS RELATIONSHIP GOING.
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I'M SWORN TO PROTECT.
GIVING PRINCE EDVARD MY HEART SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

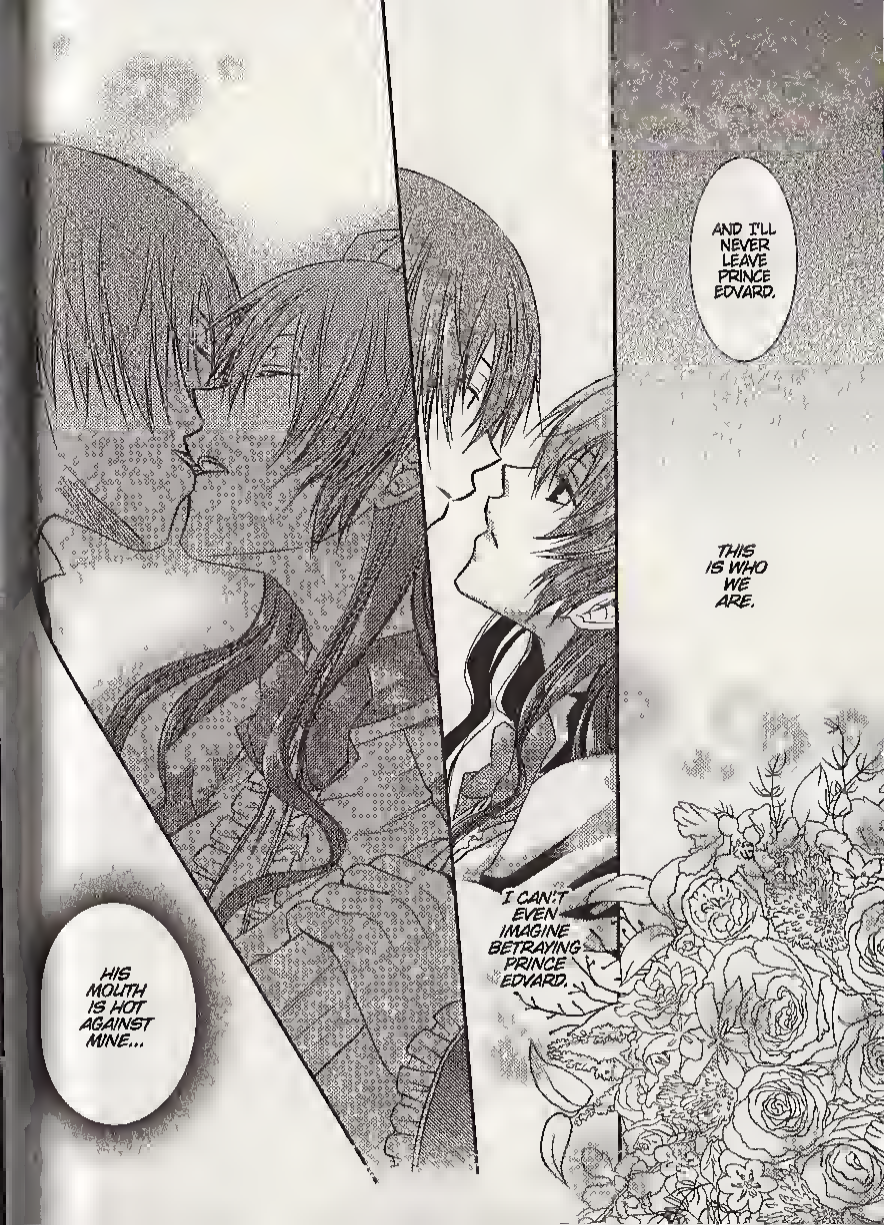
GAH.
NOTHING!
WHAT'S WRONG?
?
I TOLD YOU I WAS ALL RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT WORSE.
CLATTER
TRUE.
BUT EVERY MAN WORRIES ABOUT THE WOMAN HE LOVES.
DAMN.
ON TOP OF THAT...
THAT ACTUALLY PLEASED ME?
THE WORST.
THIS WON'T END WELL.
THAT SORT OF SENTIMENT COULD DESTROY YOU LATER.

WHY AM I BLUSHING?!
UGH
DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE WHILE YOU'RE INJURED!
I KNOW, BUT...
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A WOUND
AND YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE MAGES, DON'T YOU?
THEN TREAT YOUR WOUND FIRST!
WE CAN FIX IT FASTER WITH MAGIC
Ridiculously stubborn.
BUT...
!
FINE.
.....
SIGH
GOOD-- THE WOUND WASN'T DEEP.
YOU SHOULD HEAL QUICKLY.

I THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH ME, TOO.
SQUEEZE
CLENCH
SLIDE
IF YOU LEAVE PRINCE JUSTIN, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
SORRY. I CAN'T DO THAT.
EVEN IF YOU ASK
GOOD.
HE REJECTED THAT IMMEDIATELY...
AS HE SHOULD

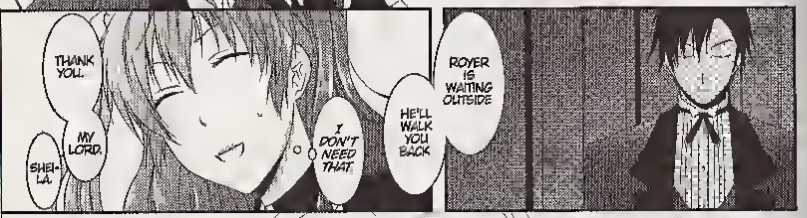

I DON'T THINK MY HEART IS AS STRONG AS YOURS
TAP
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
AND I CAN'T SUPPRESS MY FEELINGS THE WAY YOU DO
I'M GLAD IT WASN'T MUCH OF AN INJURY.
BUT!
A MAN DROWNING IN LOVE IS PRETTY PATHETIC
I CAN'T ARGUE THAT

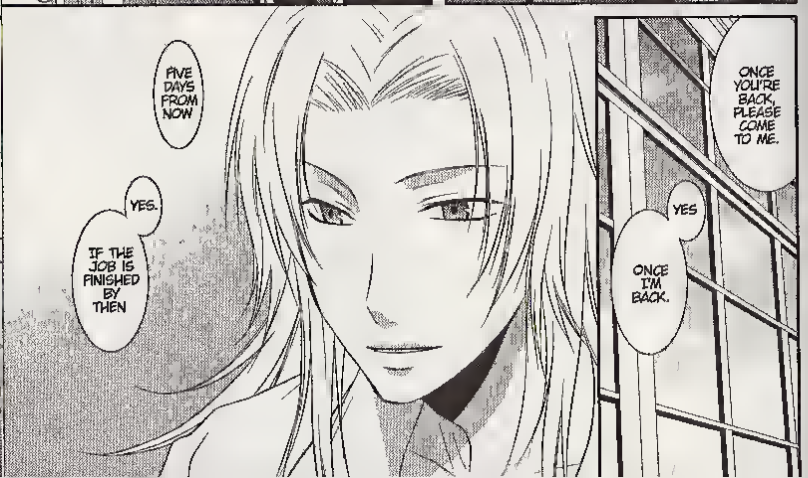

WE WOMEN CAN BE SLY
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT AFTER A KISS?
I DON'T GIVE UP EASILY, SHEILA.
KA-CHAK
I KNOW.
I CAN SMILE AT THIS PATHETIC MAN.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU...
MY HEART'S STRONGER THAN YOURS.
BUT I CAN DO THIS.
I CAN STILL HOLD MYSELF BACK.
NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU SHOULD GIVE ME UP.

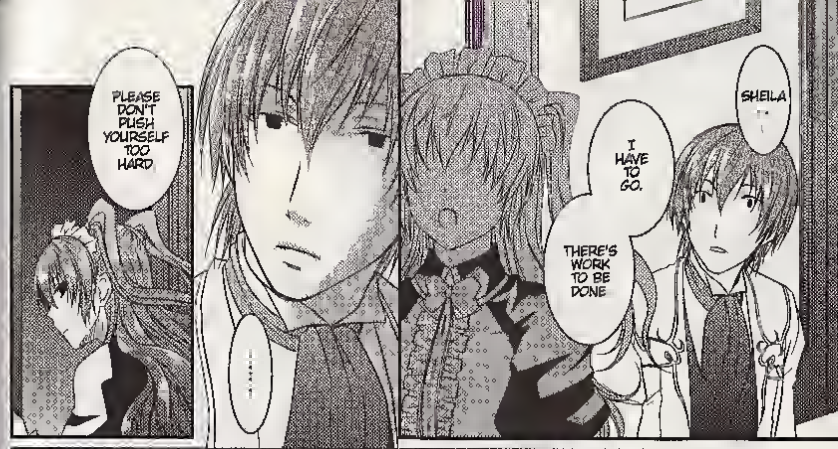

HIS MOUTH IS HOT AGAINST MINE...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE BETRAYING PRINCE EDVARD.
THIS IS WHO WE ARE.
AND I'LL NEVER LEAVE PRINCE EDVARD.

I SEE
BE CAREFUL
I WILL
I HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY TOMORROW.
AND I'LL BE GONE FROM THE CASTLE FOR ABOUT FOUR DAYS.
I'M SORRY, MY LORD
CAN'T YOU STAY, SHEILA?
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME

after here







SO MAYBE NO ONE WILL NOTICE.

MY PLEASURE.

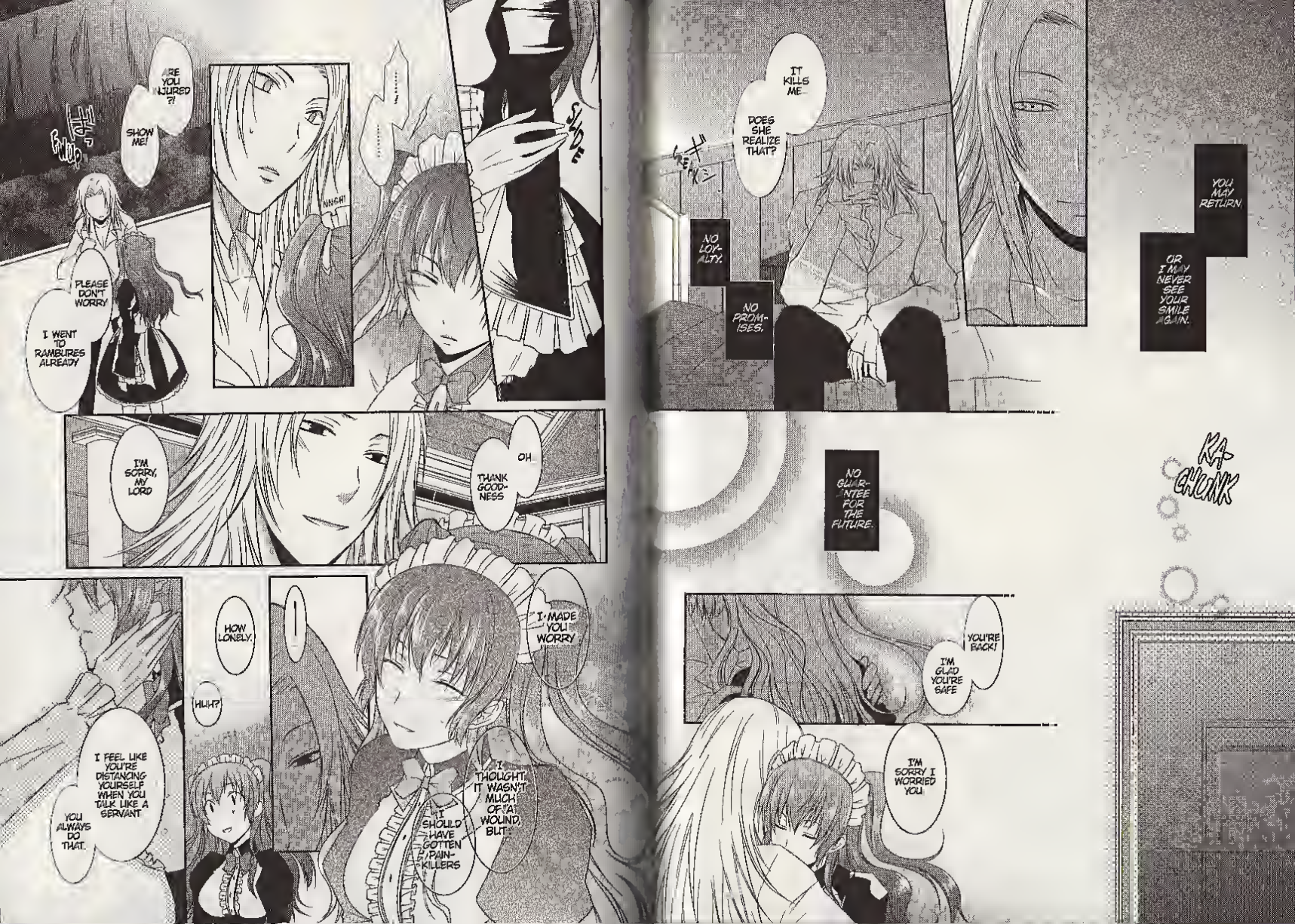
AS I HIDE THAT SMALL, LINGERING FEELING...

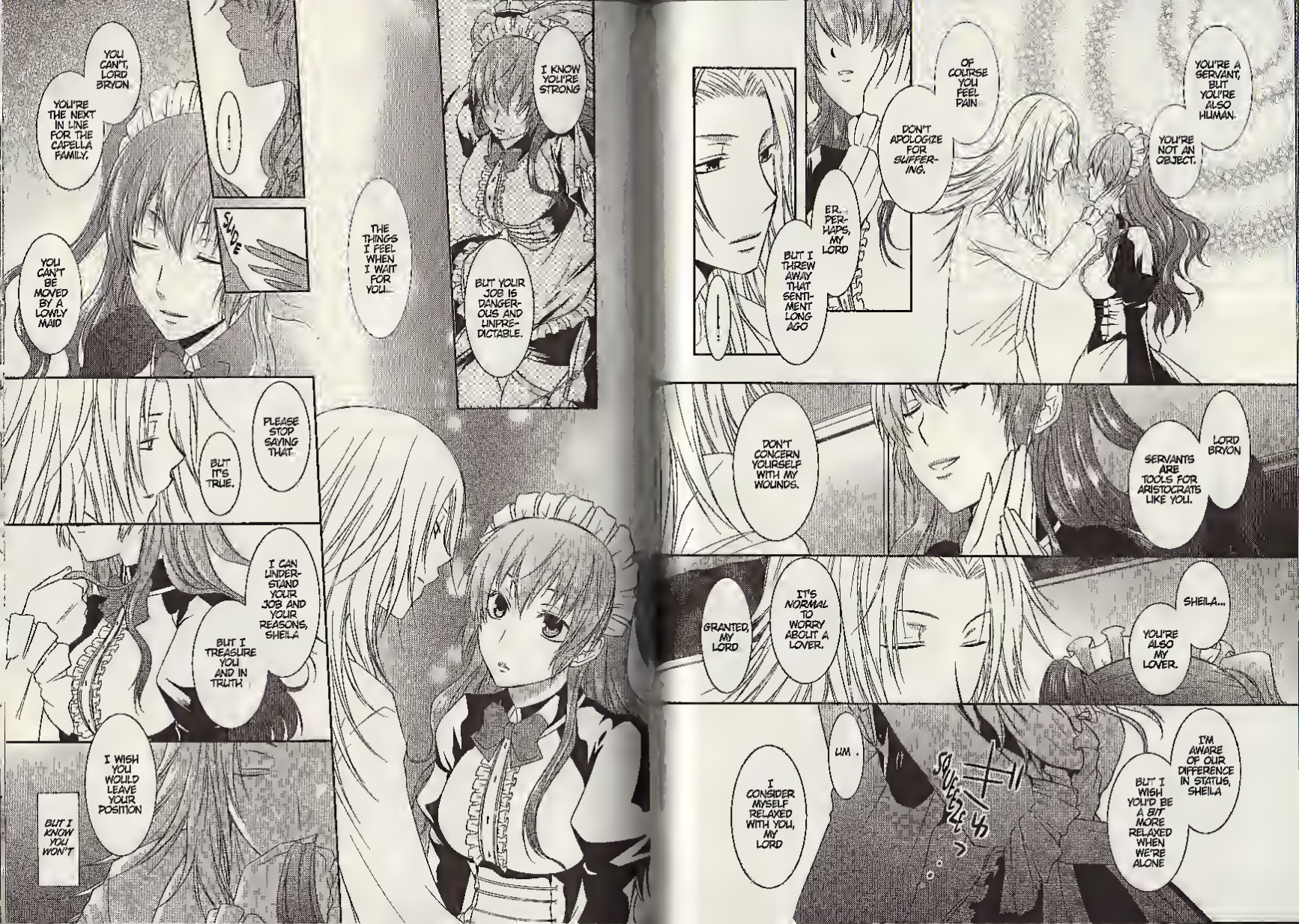
.. AND THE HEATED PASSION THAT THREATENS TO DROWN ME.

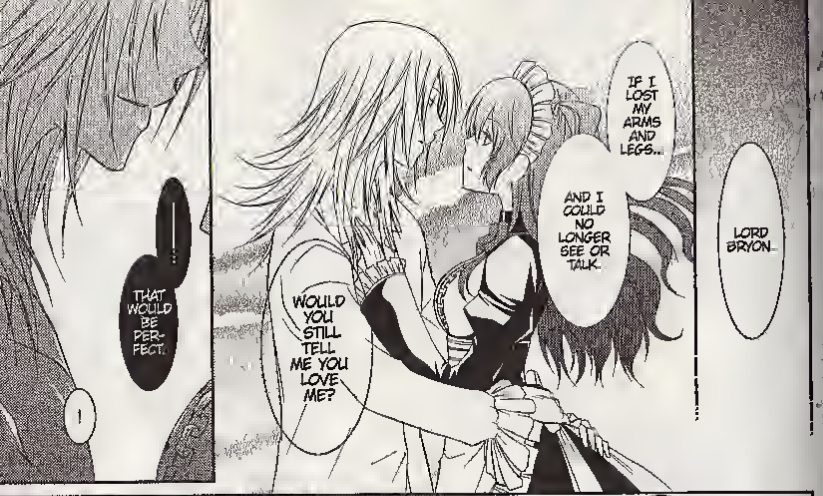
• E N D •

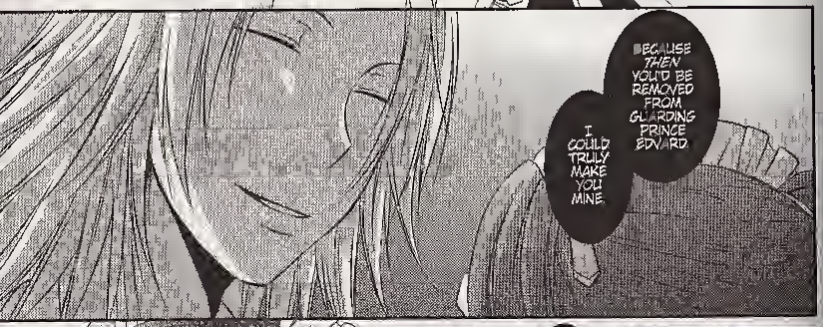
I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR SAFETY.
SHEILA
GOOD-BYE.
AH
I REALIZE ONCE AGAIN...
THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY AS YOU LEAVE TO RISK YOUR LIFE.
...THAT I CAN'T STOP YOU.
ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT.

BUT I STILL WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME.
I CAN'T PROMISE WHAT'S OUT OF MY HANDS
PLEASE, SHEILA.
NO!
PROM-ISE ME.
FIVE DAYS IS MY GUESS.
FIVE DAYS! I'LL BE WAITING.
I WISH I COULD, LORD BRYON
YOU'RE SO STUB-BORN.
HEH.
IF I DON'T RETURN IN FIVE DAYS...
THAT MEANS I WAS UNABLE TO FULFILL PRINCE EDVARD'S ORDERS.

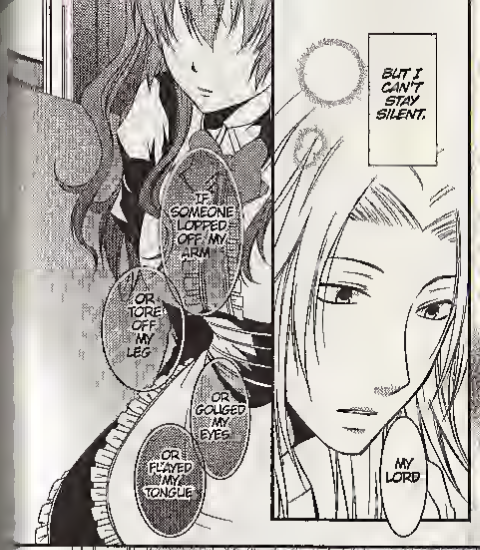

ARE YOU INJURED?!
SHOW ME!
PLEASE DON'T WORRY
I WENT TO RAMBURES ALREADY
NNGH!
SLIDE
I'M SORRY, MY LORD
OH THANK GOODNESS
I MADE YOU WORRY
HOW LONELY.
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DISTANCING YOURSELF WHEN YOU TALK LIKE A SERVANT
YOU ALWAYS DO THAT.
I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN PAIN-KILLERS
I THOUGHT IT WASN'T MUCH OF A WOUND, BUT
IT KILLS ME
DOES SHE REALIZE THAT?
NO LOY-ALTY.
NO PROM-ISES.
YOU MAY RETURN
OR I MAY NEVER SEE YOUR SMILE AGAIN.
KA-CHUNK
NO GUAR-ANTEE FOR THE FUTURE.
YOU'RE BACK!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE
I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU.


YOU'RE A SERVANT, BUT YOU'RE ALSO HUMAN.
YOU'RE NOT AN OBJECT.
OF COURSE YOU FEEL PAIN
DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR SUFFERING.
ER... PERHAPS, MY LORD
BUT I THREW AWAY THAT SENTIMENT LONG AGO
!
LORD BRYON
SERVANTS ARE TOOLS FOR ARISTOCRATS LIKE YOU.
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY WOUNDS.
SHEILA...
YOU'RE ALSO MY LOVER.
IT'S NORMAL TO WORRY ABOUT A LOVER.
GRANTED, MY LORD
I'M AWARE OF OUR DIFFERENCE IN STATUS, SHEILA
BUT I WISH YOU'D BE A BIT MORE RELAXED WHEN WE'RE ALONE
UM.
I CONSIDER MYSELF RELAXED WITH YOU, MY LORD
SHUTTER
I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG
BUT YOUR JOB IS DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE.
THE THINGS I FEEL WHEN I WAIT FOR YOU...
YOU CAN'T, LORD BRYON
YOU'RE THE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE CAPELLA FAMILY.
!
SHUDDER
YOU CAN'T BE MOVED BY A LOWLY MAID
PLEASE STOP SAYING THAT.
BUT IT'S TRUE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR JOB AND YOUR REASONS, SHEILA
BUT I TREASURE YOU AND IN TRUTH
I WISH YOU WOULD LEAVE YOUR POSITION
BUT I KNOW YOU WON'T

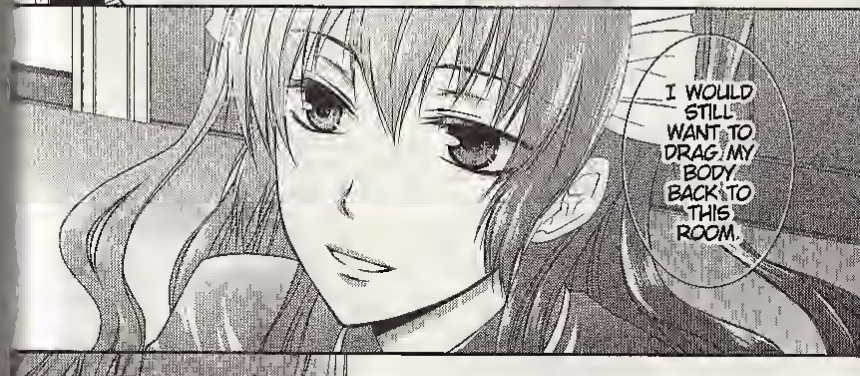

LORD BRYON.
IF I LOST MY ARMS AND LEGS...
AND I COULD NO LONGER SEE OR TALK.
WOULD YOU STILL TELL ME YOU LOVE ME?
THAT WOULD BE PERFECT.
!


BECAUSE THEN YOU'D BE REMOVED FROM GUARDING PRINCE EDVARD.
I COULD TRULY MAKE YOU MINE.

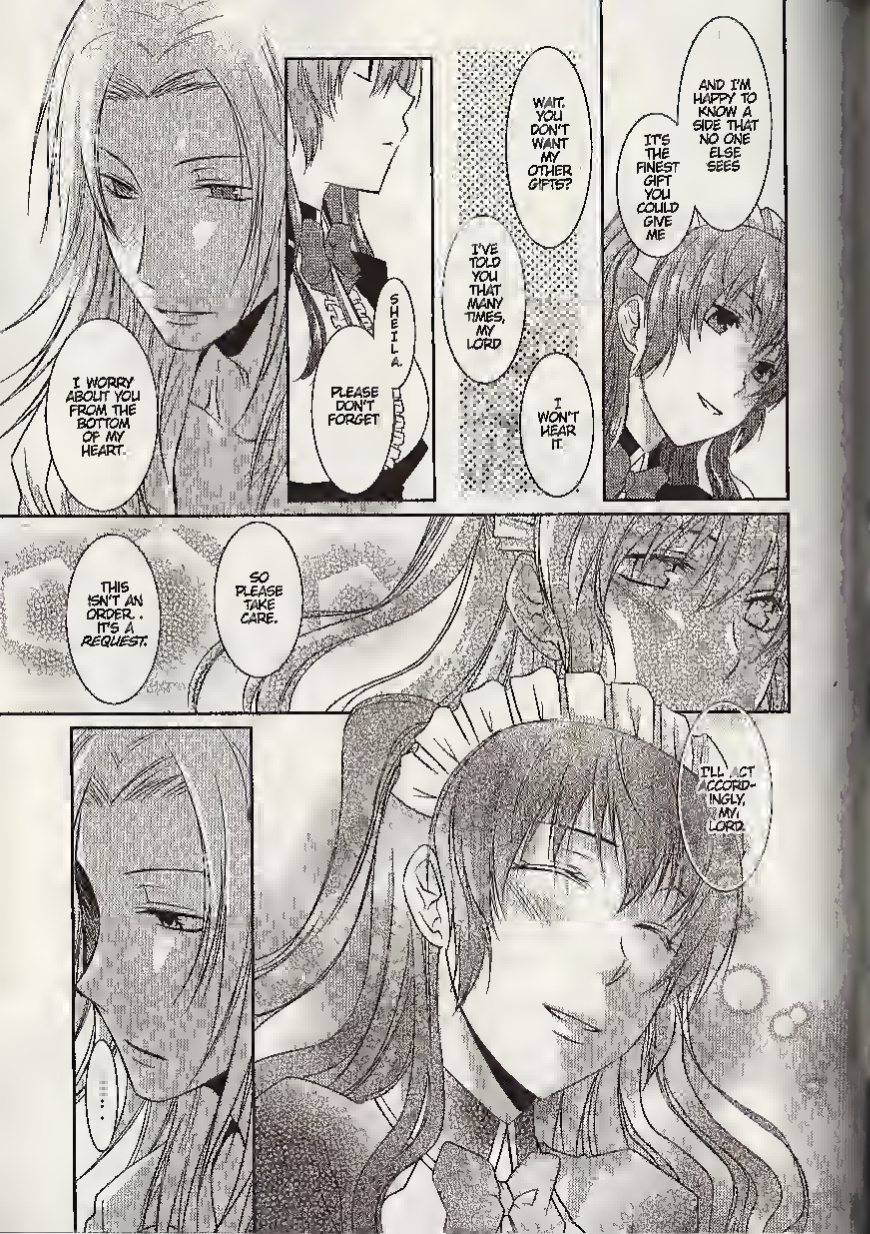
DO AS YOU WILL...
WELL?
I COULD LOCK YOU IN THIS ROOM.
YOU WOULD BE MINE ALONE.
IF I TAKE YOUR FREEDOM AND CRIPPLE YOUR BODY...
WHY DON'T WE DO THAT?


BUT I CAN'T STAY SILENT.
IF SOMEONE LOPPED OFF MY ARM
OR TORE OFF MY LEG
OR GOUGED MY EYES
OR PLAYED MY TONGUE
MY LORD

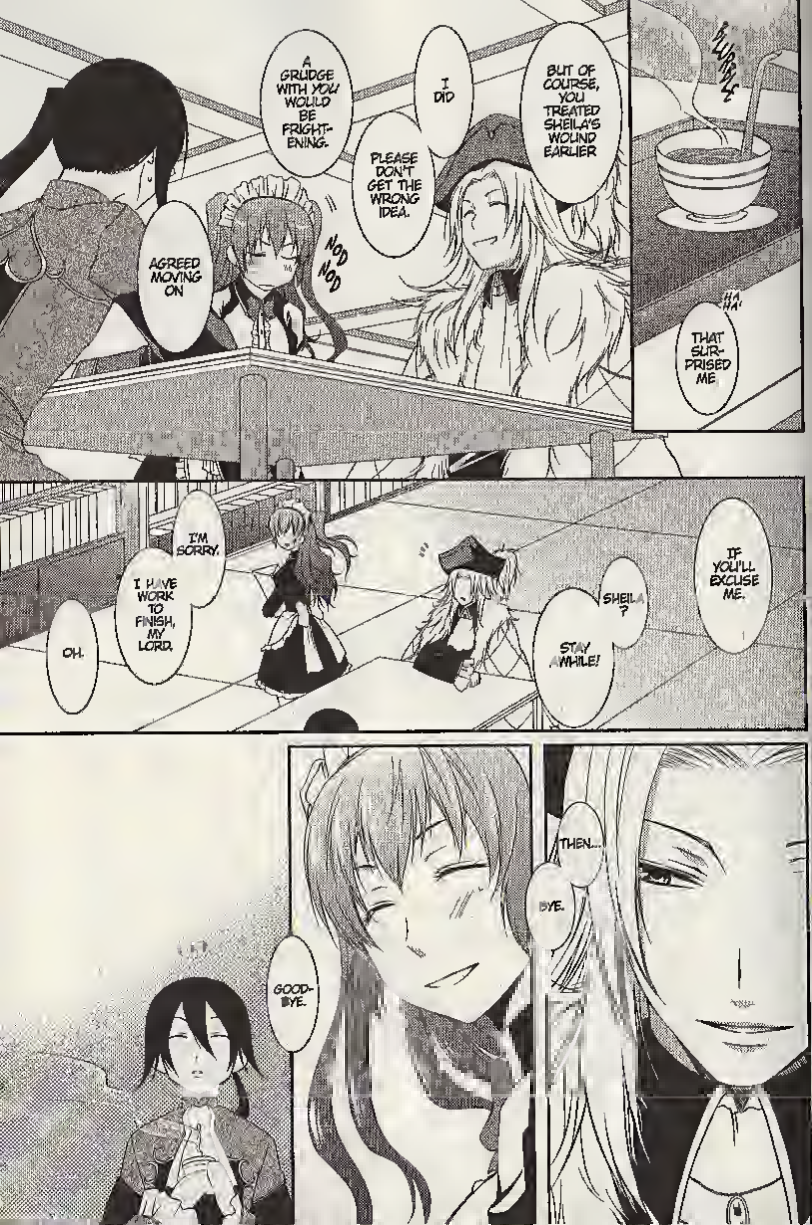
YOU WOULD NEVER BETRAY PRINCE EDVARD.
SO ALL MY PLEAS ARE MEANINGLESS...
AND CAN ONLY TROUBLE YOU

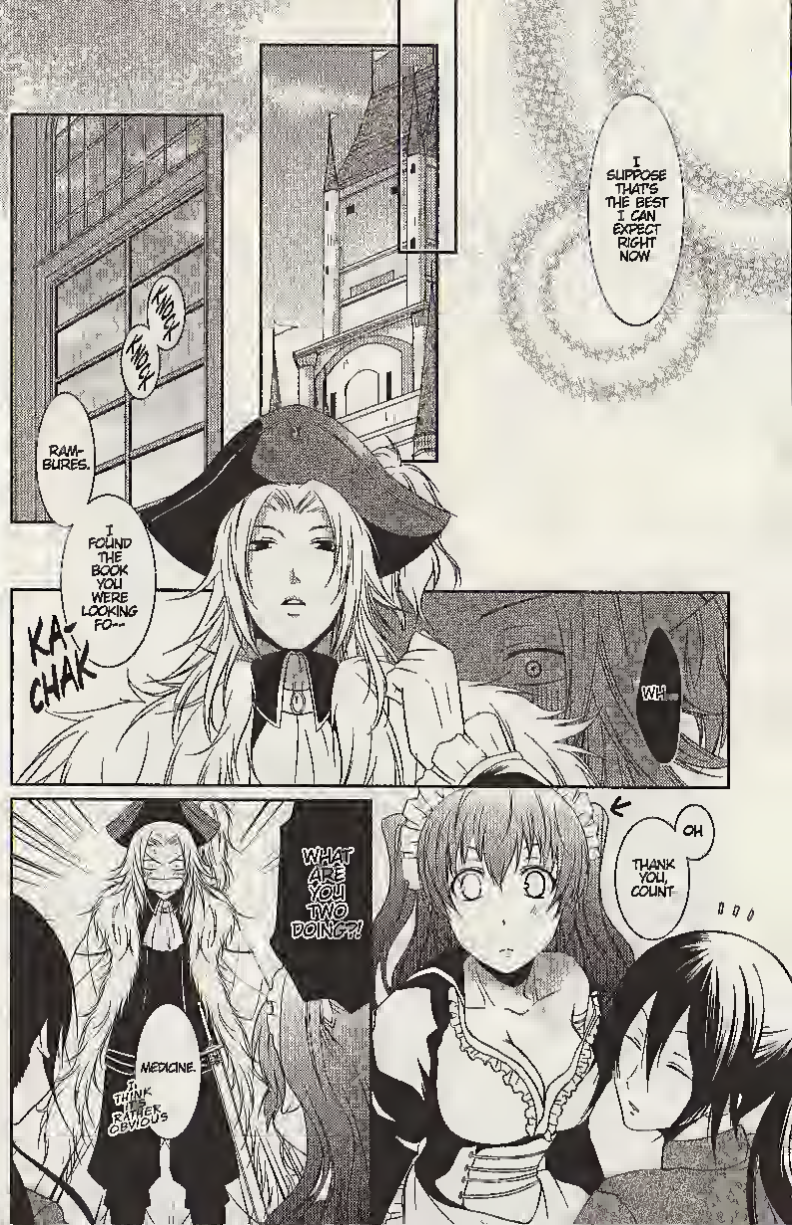

I WOULD STILL WANT TO DRAG MY BODY BACK TO THIS ROOM.

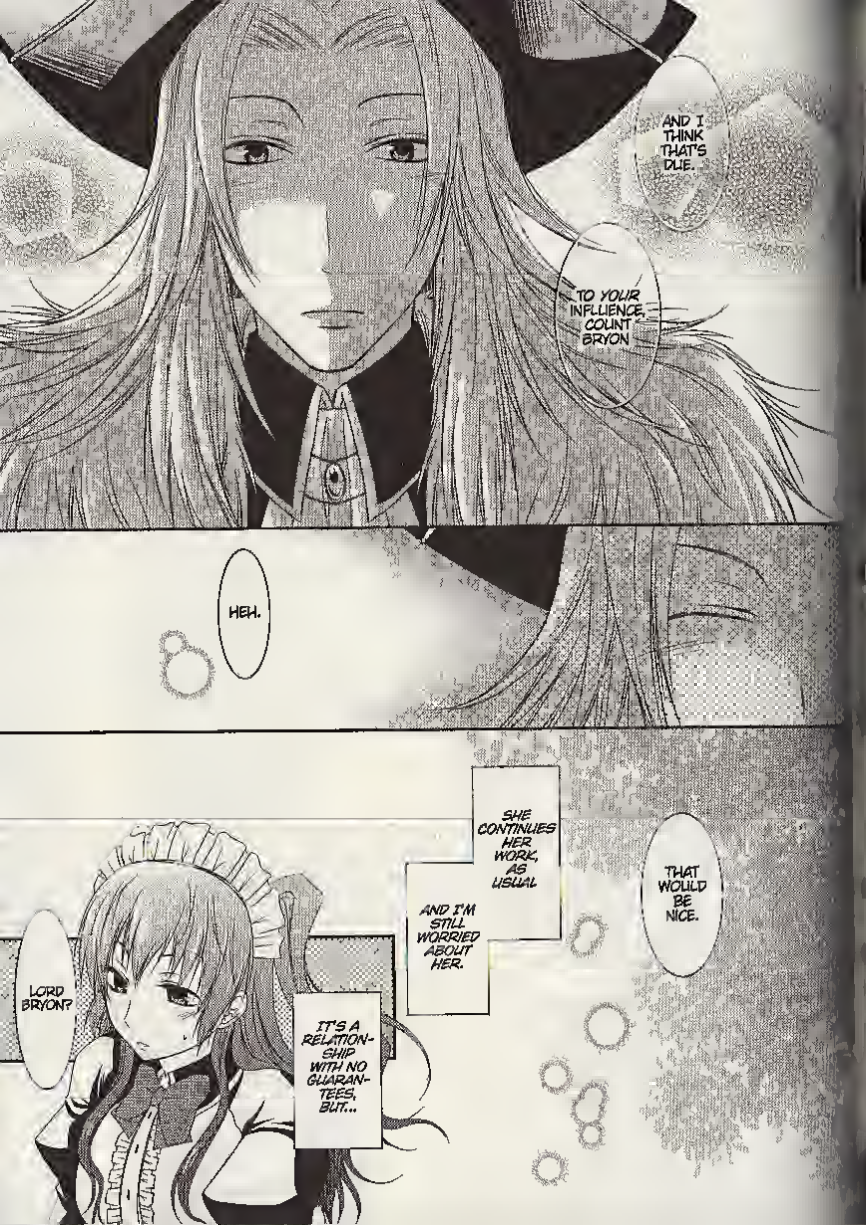
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT.
BUT I CAN'T PROMISE

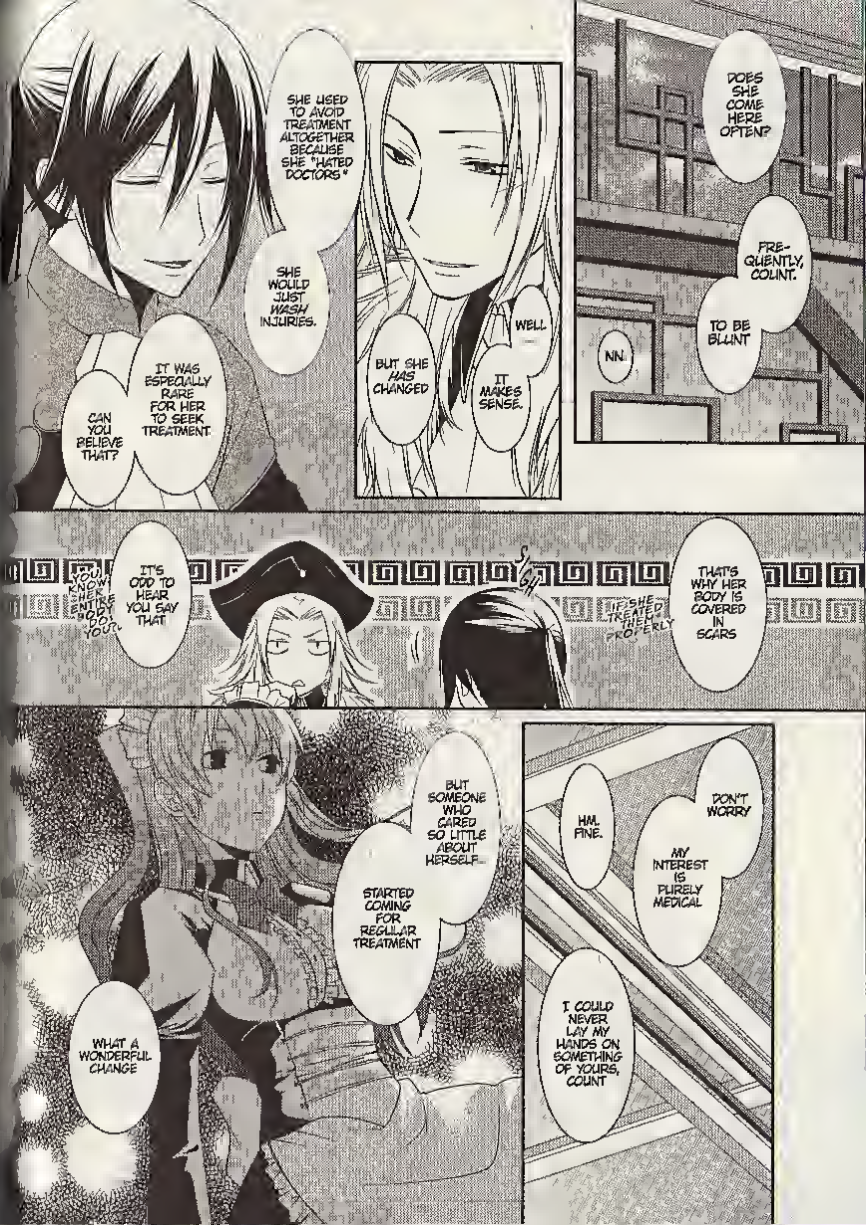

I WORRY ABOUT YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
SHEILA.
PLEASE DON'T FORGET
WAIT. YOU DON'T WANT MY OTHER GIFTS?
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT MANY TIMES, MY LORD
I WON'T WEAR IT.
IT'S THE FINEST GIFT YOU COULD GIVE ME
AND I'M HAPPY TO KNOW A SIDE THAT NO ONE ELSE SEES
THIS ISN'T AN ORDER. IT'S A REQUEST.
SO PLEASE TAKE CARE.
I'LL ACT ACCORDINGLY, MY LORD.
.....

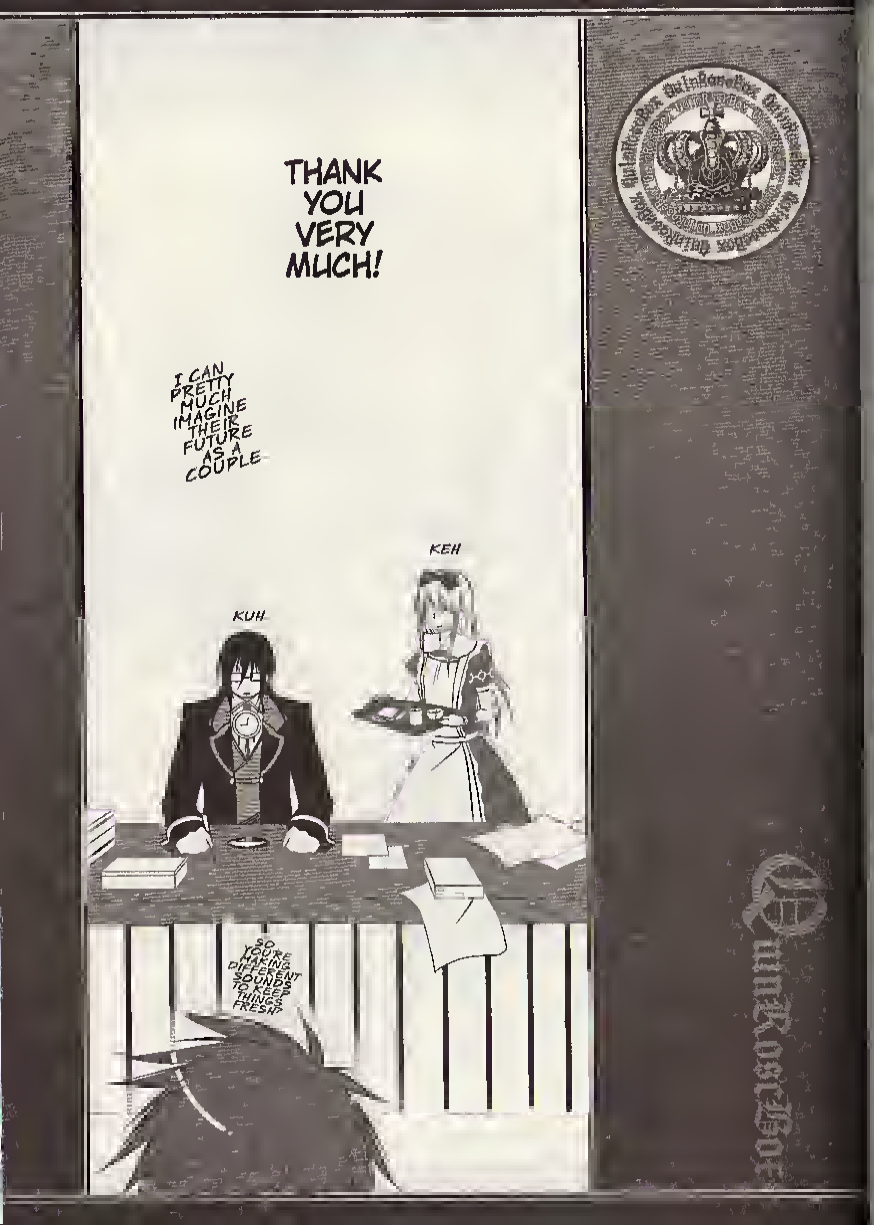
I COULD NEVER DO THAT!
I KNOW.
AND I WOULD RESIST YOU FIRMLY, MY LORD.
Honest.
I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER BECOME PRINCE EDVARD'S ENEMY.
VERY WELL.
THEN I MUST WORK HARD FOR MY PRINCE AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET TIRED OF ME, LORD BRYON.
I LOVE MY LORD NO MATTER HOW HE LOOKS.
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?
SHEILA.
I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE A FOOL IN FRONT OF YOU!

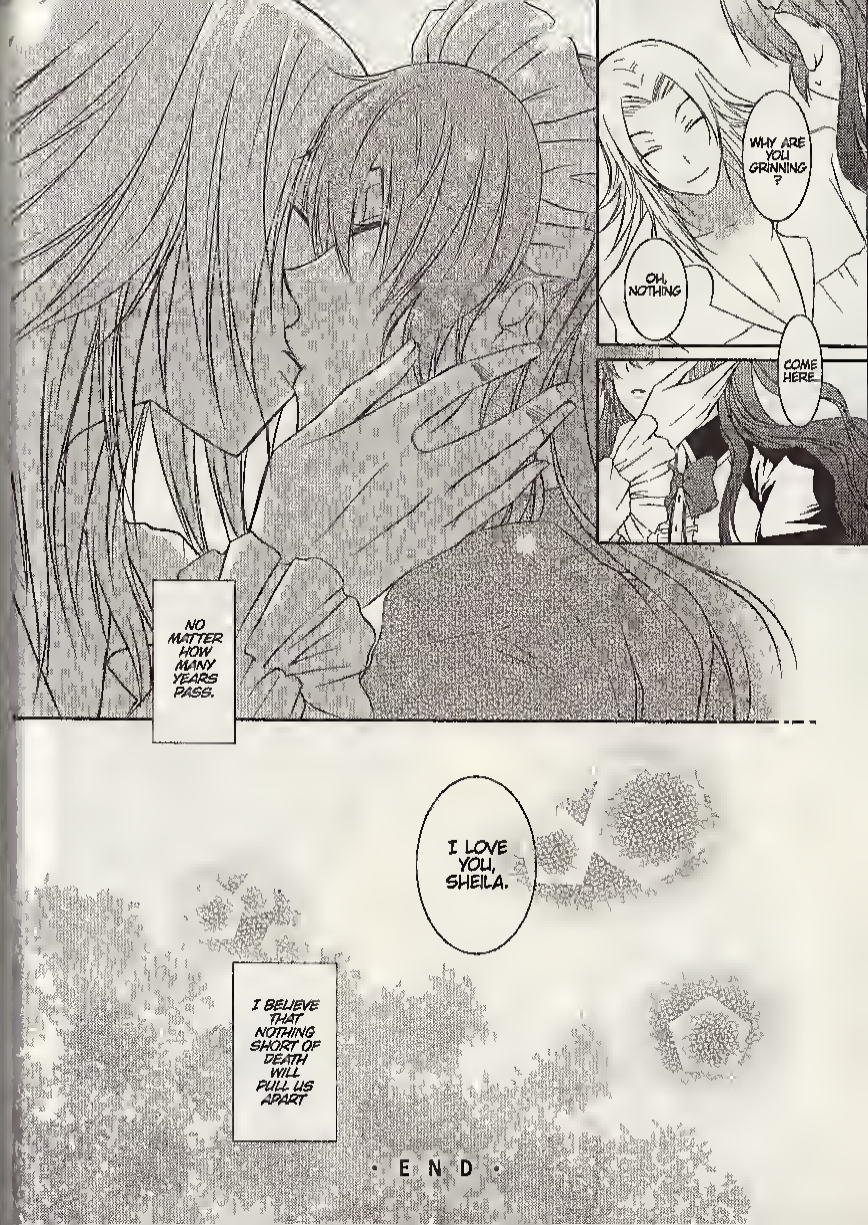

A GRUDGE WITH YOU WOULD BE FRIGHTENING.
I DID
PLEASE DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
BUT OF COURSE, YOU TREATED SHEILA'S WOUND EARLIER
SLURP
AGREED MOVING ON
NOD NOD
HA HA!
THAT SURPRISED ME
I'M SORRY.
I HAVE WORK TO FINISH, MY LORD.
OH.
SHEILA?
STAY AWHILE!
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
GOOD-BYE.
THEN...
BYE.

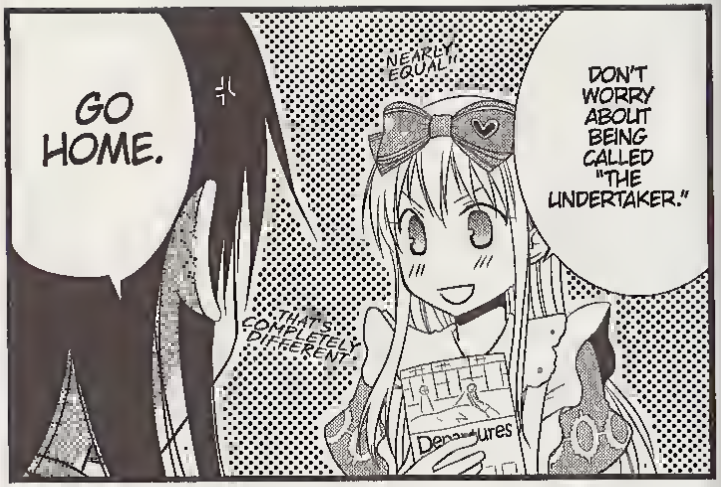

I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE BEST I CAN EXPECT RIGHT NOW
KNOCK KNOCK
RAM-BURES.
I FOUND THE BOOK YOU WERE LOOKING FO--
KA-CHAK
WH-WHAT
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
MEDICINE.
I THINK THAT'S RATHER OBVIOUS
OH
THANK YOU, COUNT.


AND I THINK THAT'S ALL.
TO YOUR INFLUENCE, COUNT BRYON
HEH.
LORD BRYON?
IT'S A RELATIONSHIP WITH NO GUARANTEES, BUT...
AND I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT HER.
SHE CONTINUES HER WORK, AS USUAL
THAT WOULD BE NICE.


SHE USED TO AVOID TREATMENT ALTOGETHER BECAUSE SHE "HATED DOCTORS"
SHE WOULD JUST WASH INJURIES.
IT WAS ESPECIALLY RARE FOR HER TO SEEK TREATMENT.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
BUT SHE HAS CHANGED
WELL...
IT MAKES SENSE.
DOES SHE COME HERE OFTEN?
FRE-QUENTLY, COUNT.
TO BE BLUNT
NN.
IT'S ODD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT
THAT'S WHY HER BODY IS COVERED IN SCARS
IF SHE TREATED THEM PROPERLY
WHAT A WONDERFUL CHANGE
STARTED COMING FOR REGULAR TREATMENT
BUT SOMEONE WHO CARED SO LITTLE ABOUT HERSELF...
I COULD NEVER LAY MY HANDS ON SOMETHING OF YOURS, COUNT
HM. FINE.
MY INTEREST IS PURELY MEDICAL
DON'T WORRY


THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I CAN PRETTY MUCH IMAGINE THEIR FUTURE AS A COUPLE
KEH
KUH
SO YOU'RE MAKING DIFFERENT SOUNDS TO KEEP THINGS FRESH?
Butler


WHY ARE YOU GRINNING?
OH, NOTHING
COME HERE
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS PASS.
I LOVE YOU, SHEILA.
I BELIEVE THAT NOTHING SHORT OF DEATH WILL PULL US APART
· E N D ·



Deep Appreciation!

I've been under your care a lot.
QuinRose

Thank you for your help!
Assistant

Thank you for everything.
Friends and Acqueintances

And most importantly,
thank you to everyone
who picked up this book!
The Readers

Thank you very much!

THE CLOCKMAKER'S STORY: POST-MORTEM

YOU WOULDN'T STAY... IN AN EMPTY TOWER
EVEN IF YOU KILL ME...
SHWIP
I'M FASTER THAN YOU, CLOCK-MAKER
GIVE IT UP
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE A SUPER-VILLAIN?
YOU'LL NEVER STOP THE NEXT CLOCK-MAKER!